

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[Columbia, South Carolina]

HEARING # 10-11113

MAY 24, 2010

6:00 P.M.

DOCKET NO. 2009-489-E:

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY - Application for Increases
and Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs

TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY
AND PROCEEDINGS

VOLUME 5

HEARING BEFORE: Elizabeth B. 'Lib' FLEMING, *CHAIRMAN*,
John E. "Butch" HOWARD, *VICE CHAIRMAN*; and COMMISSIONERS
David A. WRIGHT, G. O'Neal HAMILTON, Swain E. WHITFIELD, and
Randy MITCHELL.

ADVISOR TO COMMISSION: F. David Butler, Esq.

STAFF: Jocelyn G. Boyd, Interim Chief Clerk/Administrator; Joseph
Melchers, Chief Counsel; James Spearman, Ph.D., Executive Assistant
to Commissioners; Philip Riley and William O. Richardson, Advisory
Staff; Patty Sands, Executive Staff; and Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat,
CVR-CM-GNSC, Court Reporter.

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APPLICANT

NANETTE S. EDWARDS, ESQUIRE, and JEFFREY M.
NELSON, ESQUIRE, representing THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Please be seated. This public hearing will now come to order. Well, good evening to everyone. We are delighted to see such a good attendance tonight. We are looking forward to hearing from each of you who would like to speak, to hear what you have to say.

And before we proceed with that part of it, I just wanted to tell you a little bit about what we are going to do. First I'm going to ask our attorney for the reading of the docket, then he's going to talk a little bit about the rules and procedures for tonight. And then, we received a stipulation this morning right before our hearing began, and so I have asked Mr. Burgess if he will give us an overview of that stipulation. I thought it was important for you to understand what is being recommended to us at this time, before you speak.

So having said that, at this time I'm going to ask David Butler for the reading of the docket.

MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members of the Commission. My name is David Butler, and I'm Senior Counsel to the Commission. This is a local public hearing for Docket No.

1 2009-489-E, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's
2 application for an increase in their rates and
3 charges.

4 in just a moment I will be calling the names
5 of those signed up, who signed up to come forward
6 and give their statement to the Commission
7 regarding the rate increase proposed by the
8 company. And by the way, I just wanted to say as a
9 word of caution, if you have cell phones, if you
10 would please cut them off or put them on vibrate,
11 that would be very much appreciated.

12 Tonight's hearing is part of the overall
13 process that the Commission goes through when
14 considering a rate case. Just to give you a basic
15 summary of the process, the company files an
16 application for its rate changes; notice of that
17 request is then published to the public; and in a
18 case like this one, the Commission sets up one or
19 more evening public hearings so that the public may
20 be heard regarding any concerns about the company's
21 application. And as you know, if you have been
22 reading the paper, there have been several public
23 hearings already held throughout the State of South
24 Carolina.

25 Also, as you probably know, starting today the

1 Commission is actually continuing the process by
2 hearing from, among other witnesses, accountants
3 and engineers who have analyzed the company's rate
4 increase request, and they have come in and have
5 been sworn or will be sworn and give their
6 testimony before the Commission on this rate
7 increase.

8 At this particular point, I'd like to ask a
9 couple of groups of attorneys to introduce
10 themselves. First, to my left, we have the company
11 attorneys in this case, and I would like to ask
12 them please to stand up and introduce themselves.

13 **MR. BURGESS:** Good evening, Madam Chairman and
14 members of the Commission. My name is Chad Burgess
15 and with me is Matthew Gissendanner, Mitchell
16 Willoughby, and Belton Zeigler. We are all members
17 of the South Carolina Bar and we appear before you
18 on behalf of SCE&G.

19 I would also like to point out that we also
20 have members from our corporate communications
21 team, Customer Services Department, as well as
22 senior management with us this evening, and we are
23 here to listen to our customers' concerns, and if
24 any customers do have concerns or want to talk with
25 us about certain issues, we do have a table out in

1 the foyer that is manned by a couple of customer
2 service representatives, and we're happy to answer
3 any questions or address any concerns our customers
4 have. Thank you.

5 **MR. BUTLER:** Thank you, Mr. Burgess. Also, to
6 my right, we have attorneys representing the Office
7 of Regulatory Staff. If you would, please, stand
8 up and introduce yourselves.

9 **MR. NELSON:** Good evening, Madam Chairman and
10 members of the Commission. I'm Jeff Nelson,
11 together with Nanette Edwards. We represent the
12 Office of Regulatory Staff.

13 **MR. BUTLER:** Thank you, very much. And I do
14 want to emphasize again, as Mr. Burgess has said,
15 if anyone has questions that they want answered,
16 please see any of these people or their designees
17 after the hearing. And there's a lot of expertise
18 in this room, and I know they'll be glad to help
19 you. And that does go for both the company and the
20 Office of Regulatory Staff, as well. Okay.

21 Tonight's hearing is actually about you. Our
22 court reporter in front of us will record
23 everything you say, and you will be sworn in. This
24 is just another -- a court hearing. So, when we do
25 call your names, if you will come up here to the

1 front, come over here to the witness stand. We
2 will swear you, and we'll ask you to please speak
3 into the microphone that you will see right there
4 on the stand, because we do want everything you say
5 to be picked up by the court reporter. This is
6 your opportunity to place your thoughts regarding
7 the proposed rate increase on the record. This is
8 not the time for you to ask the Commissioners
9 questions. Again, the Commissioners cannot discuss
10 the case with you, really, or answer questions
11 regarding the case, but again, as I said just a
12 moment ago, representatives of the Office of
13 Regulatory Staff are here, representatives of SCE&G
14 are here, and they can answer your questions at the
15 conclusion of the hearing.

16 The Commission will continue to gather
17 evidence in this case until the conclusion of the
18 hearings this week; and thereafter, the Commission
19 will consider all the information it gets from all
20 the hearings and will render a decision on this
21 matter on or before July 20th, 2010.

22 I did want to mention that due to the large
23 number of people that we have here tonight and the
24 fact that we want to give everybody an equal chance
25 to speak, the Commission has requested a time limit

1 of five minutes for each speaker. And just so that
2 you can keep up with the time, we do have a clock
3 over here, on the right, that you'll be able to see
4 during the course of your discussion. And again,
5 please recognize that we do have a number of
6 speakers who have signed up to be heard, so you can
7 really help us out a lot if you tell us what you
8 want to tell us within a short period of time.

9 And I did want to tell you that when you do
10 come up and give your discussion to the Commission,
11 that you will be subject to questions from the
12 parties out here, and from the Commissioners as
13 well, and possible objections from the parties.
14 So, as I stated, please do come up to the witness
15 stand and give your speech when you're called on.
16 Please remain on the witness stand for a moment
17 after giving your statement, so that the
18 Commissioners or lawyers may ask you any questions
19 that they may have.

20 And one other thing, if another person before
21 you happens to say what you want to say, it is okay
22 to just decline to speak when it comes to your
23 turn. And we don't say that to discourage anybody
24 from speaking your piece tonight. The Commission
25 is here, the Commission wants to hear from you, but

1 just in the event that somebody happens to speak
2 ahead of you and says exactly what you want to say,
3 it's perfectly okay to decline to speak when it
4 becomes your turn if you want to.

5 So at this point, Madam Chairman, I do have
6 the list of names before me. Did you want to
7 introduce the members of the Commission before we
8 begin?

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** I do. And we need to hear
10 from Mr. Burgess, as well.

11 **MR. BUTLER:** Certainly.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** I am Lib Fleming, and I'm
13 Chair of the Commission. To my far left is
14 Commissioner O'Neal Hamilton. Next to him is
15 Commissioner David Wright. Next to him is
16 Commissioner Butch Howard, and he is Vice Chair of
17 the Commission. And to my far right is
18 Commissioner Swain Whitfield, and next to him is
19 Commissioner Randy Mitchell.

20 And as I said, we are looking forward to
21 hearing from you tonight. At this time I'd like to
22 ask Mr. Burgess if he would give us a quick
23 overview of the stipulation that was presented to
24 us today.

25 **MR. BURGESS:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I'm

1 happy and pleased to inform everybody here, as well
2 as the Commissioners again, as we did this morning,
3 about the third stipulation that the parties of
4 record entered into -- certain parties of record
5 entered into earlier today. The third stipulation
6 is a consensus agreement among certain parties in
7 this case, in which --

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Excuse me, can you -- yes,
9 it's a little soft.

10 **MR. BURGESS:** Okay.

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We want you to be heard.

12 **MR. BURGESS:** Thank you. The third
13 stipulation is a consensus agreement among certain
14 parties of record in this case, parties who
15 represent all of our customers' classes among
16 SCE&G's system. The third stipulation resolves all
17 the contested issues in this case. It also
18 incorporates by reference the first two
19 stipulations that were entered into by certain
20 parties along the way. The first of those
21 stipulations was dated May 3rd, and that first
22 stipulation is the stipulation in which the parties
23 agreed to an ROE of 10.7. The parties also agreed
24 to the implementation -- or recommended to this
25 Commission the implementation of a weather

1 normalization mechanism. That weather
2 normalization mechanism is designed to mitigate the
3 impact on customers' bills such as we saw over the
4 first quarter of 2010 and in the month of December
5 for 2009 when SCE&G's service territory and its
6 customers experienced one of the coldest winters on
7 record, which had the effect of increasing or
8 causing a spike in customers' bills.

9 So, in order to mitigate that from happening
10 in the future, the parties agreed to a weather
11 normalization mechanism that they're recommending
12 that this Commission approve. If that is approved,
13 the company is willing to credit back to its
14 residential and small general service class of
15 customers \$25 million over 12 months, and that
16 credit will be applied to customers' bills via a
17 decremental rider. That is stipulation number one.

18 Number two involves the ORS pro forma
19 accounting adjustments that were set forth in the
20 Office of Regulatory Staff's direct testimony, and
21 those were laid out in the audit exhibit of Sharon
22 Scott. I believe that's page number -- Audit
23 Exhibit No. 2, pages one through five. Also, there
24 was an economic impact zone investment tax credit
25 of approximately \$48.7 million, and the company and

1 the other parties have agreed to recommend to this
2 Commission to flow that credit back to customers,
3 which will also be in the form of a decremental
4 rider which will appear on customers' bills for the
5 next two years. And those credits will be issued
6 to customers until the credit is exhausted at the
7 end of two years. There were also some other
8 accounting adjustments in that second stipulation,
9 as well.

10 At the end of the day, the question probably
11 is where does that leave the rate adjustment. And
12 what we have here [indicating] is a chart. I'm not
13 sure if everybody can see it, if you're sitting
14 directly behind me, but I'll walk through it for
15 you. If you look on the far left corner there,
16 with all the ORS adjustments and all the agreements
17 that were reached among the parties, you have an
18 initial rate increase in Year 1 of 2.5 percent.
19 Now it's 2.5 percent because there are two sets of
20 credits; one is the WNA credit, which is the \$25
21 million I just mentioned, and the second is the EIZ
22 tax credit. Now, after Year 1, the WNA credit will
23 expire. Those credits will be exhausted, and there
24 will be a 1.2 percent incremental increase in the
25 rate in Year 2. Then at the end of the second

1 year, when the EIZ tax credits expire, there will
2 be another incremental 1.18 percent increase that
3 will happen in Year 3.

4 So, at the end of the day, whereas the company
5 had originally requested a 9.52 percent increase,
6 it is 2.5 in Year 1; another 1.2, which equals 3.7
7 in Year 2; and then 1.18 in Year 3, which equals
8 4.88 at the end of Year 3.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Could you just tell us what
10 EIZ stands for, and WNA?

11 **MR. BURGESS:** Absolutely. EIZ stands for
12 economic impact zone investment tax credit, and WNA
13 stands for weather normalization adjustment.

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

15 **MR. BURGESS:** Thank you, Madam Chairman.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Mr. Butler, if
17 you would call our first witness.

18 **MR. BUTLER:** Yes, ma'am. I'll be glad to do
19 so. The first witness signed up to be heard
20 tonight is Mr. Charles Kneece. Mr. Kneece, would
21 you come forward please, to the stand?

22 [Witness sworn]

23 THEREUPON came,

24 **C H A R L E S K N E E C E ,**
25 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

1 **MR. BUTLER:** Yes, sir. If you would give us
2 your name and address and then say your statement,
3 please.

4 **WITNESS:** My name is Charles Kneece. I live
5 at 1025 Old Sloan Road, Columbia, South Carolina.

6 I know that what I've got to say may not be
7 very much, but between November 2009 and this year,
8 up until this month in May, I spent about \$2,000 on
9 replacing appliances. Now, if I'm going to be
10 replacing appliances and then all of a sudden my
11 rates keep going up, it's false economy. Because
12 why am I putting money out to lower my rates and
13 yet they keep coming in wanting more money? After
14 awhile there ain't no more blood in the turnip.
15 It's done gone.

16 But I'm just not satisfied with the thing of
17 the power company keep wanting to get more money,
18 more money. I just don't like that. I know
19 they've got to have money to operate with. I
20 understand that. But, there's got to be a break
21 somewhere. Thank you.

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay.

23 [Applause]

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If I could just ask the
25 people in the audience to refrain from clapping or

1 spontaneous --

2 [Laughter]

3 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** -- outbursts. This is just
4 like a civil court proceeding, so we do have to
5 have order maintained. I know you feel very
6 passionate and strongly about these issues, and
7 they appreciate your support, but if you would
8 refrain from that.

9 Now, Mr. Kneece, let's see if there are any
10 questions for you.

11 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions, Madam
12 Chair.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

14 **MR. NELSON:** No questions, Madam Chair. Thank
15 you.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Commissioners?

17 [No response]

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, you may step
19 down. Thank you.

20 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

21 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

22 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Wendell
23 Bedenbaugh, please. Wendell Bedenbaugh.

24 [Witness sworn]

25 <

1 THEREUPON came,

2 W E N D E L L B E D E N B A U G H ,

3 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Yes, please go ahead.

5 WITNESS: Just a few comments about the way I
6 think SCE&G is run, in a business way. I see no
7 need for SCE&G to spend money on advertisements.
8 Most of the time, if you will notice, there's only
9 one power line in front of your house. You take
10 the available electricity or you do without. Also,
11 we've had a big change in Lake Murray.

12 By the way, I'm Wendell Bedenbaugh, 311 Barr
13 Woods Road, Saluda, South Carolina 29138. Sorry
14 about that.

15 Back to the Lake Murray situation. Lake
16 Murray has become, in my opinion, a recreational
17 lake instead of an electrical lake. Lake Murray
18 was built to generate electricity. Is that the
19 number one priority today? I know of no one paying
20 any kind of boater's fee to use Lake Murray, which
21 my electric bill helps keep Lake Murray up. Also,
22 there's people using Lake Murray, fishing as a
23 business. Does SCE&G benefit from that fishing
24 business?

25 The State parks: for one, Billy Dreher Island.

1 They charge a fee to use Billy Dreher Island; the
2 State does. What makes Billy Dreher Island is Lake
3 Murray. Why should SCE&G not get a portion of the
4 fees for Billy Dreher Island?

5 Also, a very touchy matter is the high
6 property taxes around Lake Murray. What creates
7 the benefit -- I mean, what creates the value for
8 the high property taxes is Lake Murray. Why should
9 us consumers keep up a big pond for people to use
10 if we're not going to benefit some from it?

11 And as far as the new reactors go, you know,
12 whenever the farmers buy some land to go with the
13 land they already have, they use the proceeds from
14 the old land and the new land to pay for the new
15 land; and if it won't work, they don't buy it.

16 Also, I wonder, is SCE&G being run like the
17 State of South Carolina?

18 **VOICE:** All right.

19 **WITNESS:** If you will read Sunday's paper, you
20 will see -- the *Columbia State Paper* -- you will
21 see where 8,300 people of the top salaried people
22 have received 10 percent raises or more, since
23 2004. But yet, in the same paper, you'll see where
24 teachers have got to be furloughed because we can't
25 meet the budget. We haven't got our priorities in

1 order.

2 The bottom line is, in my opinion, we are
3 creating electric bills that people cannot pay. We
4 have people now that cannot pay their electric
5 bill, and as rates go up and Social Security
6 stagnates and pensions stagnate, then the onliest
7 people who can pay their bill is these people
8 that's getting the raises when nobody else gets
9 them.

10 And so, in my opinion, we are creating a
11 nightmare in years to come for people that cannot
12 pay the bills. Thank you.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

14 [Applause]

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Burgess?

16 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chair.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

18 **MR. NELSON:** No questions, Madam Chair. Thank
19 you, Mr. Bedenbaugh.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

21 [No response]

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, you may step
23 down.

24 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

25 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Mr. Joe

1 Wojcicki, please. Mr. Joe?

2 [Witness sworn]

3 THEREUPON came,

4 **J O E W O J C I C K I ,**

5 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

6 **WITNESS:** Good evening.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Good evening, Mr. Joe.

8 **WITNESS:** Thank you, very much, especially to
9 our Madam Chair. And ladies and gentlemen, first I
10 have to introduce myself. I'm Joe Wojcicki. A
11 strange name. I'm an South Carolinian with an
12 accent, because I was adopted by Senator Thurmond
13 as to the 4 million South Carolinian family. So,
14 this is my time to repay to this beautiful family,
15 the people of the South Carolina.

16 [Ref: PowerPoint Slide 1]

17 This is my expertise, but what I want to do
18 today, I want to show some kind of engineering
19 point of view to the two reactors, the nuclear
20 reactors that they plan to build. Because, what?
21 These two reactors are the reason that we need --
22 or really, South Carolina Electric & Gas need more
23 money to build this kind of very big production of
24 electricity.

25 [Ref: PowerPoint Slide 2]

1 This is what I try to tell you a little bit
2 about this one. I was teaching for three years in
3 the economical electrical engineers. There are
4 things that some question if you're going to have,
5 I'll be glad to answer.

6 [Ref: PowerPoint Slide 3]

7 First, of course, is, do we need extra
8 electricity, electrical power, in the South
9 Carolina? And this is probably how we would be --
10 have class, from the South Carolina Electric & Gas,
11 because my answer is yes. We need more
12 electricity. But not everybody needs this more
13 electricity, only practically industrial, which is
14 supposed to be 25 percent this year in sales, and
15 other. In "other," we see transportation. And in
16 probably few years, maybe five, ten years, most of
17 the transportation would be powered by electricity,
18 because this is only one way that we can leave
19 alone all this oil brought to us from the Middle
20 East, and we still have this kind of problem; the
21 dependence of the oil.

22 So again, to get electricity, we can get from
23 the nuclear, which is the project done right now by
24 South Carolina Electric & Gas, and this is pretty
25 big one because there are two reactors and give you

1 over two gigawatts. "Giga" means billion of watts.

2 The coal -- coal is pretty old technology and,
3 but right now, for example, in Poland -- I was born
4 in this country -- in July 2009 they built the
5 first big generator station using that so-called
6 cleaner technology. Again, we're going to probably
7 have for another 200 years a lot of coal, not
8 exactly in South Carolina, but Tennessee and other
9 close country. And we probably still have to run
10 our existing coal station, just maybe a little bit
11 retrofitting.

12 Natural gas and bio-gas and also renewables.
13 It's a lot of idea that renewable is good, it's
14 good for the people. If you want to have
15 independent source of electricity, just put
16 something in your house, for example, a solar panel
17 or -- no, don't put any this wind, because this is
18 something that is going to probably remove your
19 birds from your backyards.

20 So, inevitably it's not something that's going
21 to give this big load to industrial and the
22 transportation. Also, I'm going to show later the
23 water.

24 [Ref: PowerPoint Slide 4]

25 What I was looking for -- the first protests I

1 found, I found these few statements. I think maybe
2 it's good to look at least for the last statement
3 by Mr. Baron Davis, that we cannot really -- I
4 don't get it, how we supposed to have so high
5 increase in the rates.

6 [Ref: PowerPoint Slide 5]

7 Next protest one I found is the people are
8 talking about how much we're going to pay in the
9 future because of the rates. And these are some
10 numbers. I have not too much time to go through
11 all the presentation for this reason. If you're
12 going to get ability to have it sometimes, I can
13 deliver this kind of information in written form
14 or, I believe, also it's going to be available on
15 the website of our Public Service Commission.

16 Because of this kind of situation, it's --
17 also I was here on the hearing about smart grid.
18 The smart grid's supposed to give you in your house
19 some kind of meter that lets you to make a
20 decision. If this would be really smart, we
21 probably going to go to this kind of situation: I
22 have a meter, so maybe I can select my company
23 that's going to deliver this one, like I have a
24 telephone; I can take AT&T or some other company.
25 Maybe this is going to be solution for the future.

1 But, right now for next few years, I will have to
2 say that South Carolina Electric & Gas is going to
3 be a monopoly in this delivery of electricity to
4 our homes.

5 So, in this case, we have to think about if
6 really these gentlemen needs money.

7 [Ref: PowerPoint Slide 6]

8 It's also -- this is something I don't really
9 like to read, this one, because this is telling you
10 how Mr. Timmerman, the president and CEO was
11 \$6,821,202. This is something that probably make
12 several of us -- make a little bit mad. But, now
13 my question is, how much really SCANA pays to their
14 electrical engineers. What is my question here on
15 the end of this statement? Because when I was on
16 the hearing about the project for the building the
17 two nuclear, there was the preparation of the
18 project from the engineering point of view. It was
19 very bad, really, very bad. So, it really was --
20 this part of the project was done by electrical
21 engineer or somebody else?

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Joe, I hate to
23 interrupt you, but I need you to wind up. It's
24 been over five minutes.

25 **WITNESS:** Okay. Let's go. So, this rate,

1 yes, because we need to build these two reactors.

2 [Ref: PowerPoint Slide 9]

3 This is some kind of showing that very
4 important for the electric companies to have as
5 many as possible customers, because also it's
6 possible to get this \$12 per month even not
7 delivering electricity. So, this is something we
8 call *in reductio ad absurdum* -- probably lawyers
9 know.

10 [Ref: PowerPoint Slide 10]

11 This is location of the people, so again, here
12 is our South Carolina, Columbia area. This is
13 Charleston. And area of these two reactors is
14 going to cover this area. Now, here is --

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Joe?

16 **WITNESS:** Okay.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Joe, we will put this
18 on the website like we do the witnesses' testimony,
19 but what we need to do is give everyone a chance to
20 speak tonight. So, if you could -- I'm going to
21 have to ask you to --

22 **WITNESS:** Speed up, yes.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** No, I'm going to have to
24 ask you to conclude right now, so that we can let
25 others speak.

1 **WITNESS:** Okay.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If there's time at the end
3 of the hearing, we may consider a little more time
4 for you, but right now --

5 **WITNESS:** Yeah, okay, so just a few moments
6 because this part is important now.

7 [Laughter]

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Joe, I'm going to have
9 to ask you to sit down.

10 **WITNESS:** Okay. So, in conclusion, I would
11 like to tell -- the problems right now, two things.
12 It's not proper location, because electricity and
13 also it's going to take a lot of the water. If
14 somebody's going to --

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Joe.

16 **WITNESS:** If somebody's going to address this,
17 there's some information --

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Joe, I need you to step
19 down.

20 **WITNESS:** Yes, okay. I would like to just
21 deliver some kind of request [indicating].

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

23 **MR. BURGESS:** Madam Chairman, we have no
24 questions of Mr. Joe.

25 [Laughter]

1 **MR. NELSON:** [Shaking head.]

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** No questions.

3 Commissioners?

4 [No response]

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** No questions. Thank you.

6 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

7 **MR. BUTLER:** Okay. We'd like to call Doris --

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Joe, if you would like
9 to leave a copy of that for the reporter.

10 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Doris Fletcher,
11 please. Doris Fletcher.

12 [WHEREUPON, Ms. Fletcher came forward]

13 **COURT REPORTER:** Ma'am, if you would raise
14 your right hand, please. Do you solemnly swear the
15 testimony you're about to give will be the truth,
16 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

17 **MS. FLETCHER:** Well, it came out of this book
18 and out of the newspaper, so I don't know how true
19 it is, honey.

20 [Laughter]

21 **MS. FLETCHER:** What do you want me to do?

22 **MR. BUTLER:** Yes, ma'am. If you would go on
23 and state your name and address, and go ahead and
24 give your statement, if you will.

25 **MS. FLETCHER:** It's Doris A. Fletcher, 1305

1 A-d-k-i-n-s Circle, West Columbia, South Carolina.

2 That's A-d-k-i-n-s, not A-t-.

3 **MR. BUTLER:** Okay. Before you go ahead there,
4 I understood what you said a minute ago about the
5 stuff coming out of the newspaper, but we really do
6 need you to swear that everything you're going to
7 say is a matter of truth, to the best of your
8 ability, if you would.

9 **MS. FLETCHER:** I will, to the best of my
10 ability.

11 **MR. BUTLER:** Okay. All right. That's fine.
12 Thank you.

13 THEREUPON came,

14 **D O R I S F L E T C H E R ,**

15 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

16 **MR. BUTLER:** If you will go ahead -- go ahead
17 and proceed.

18 **WITNESS:** I don't know what this is but it
19 says -- this is what I'm trying to find out. Does
20 anyone know how much 1,000 kilowatt-hours amount
21 to? Because I just see 1,000, 800, whatever, and
22 it will go up \$5.79 a month, or more, and to \$69.48
23 a year. That's out of this paper on 5/15. Who
24 believes that?

25 Less than two weeks ago they lowered the

1 request to about 6.55 percent. As of Friday, was
2 asking for a 4.88 percent jump. The Office of
3 Regulatory Staff, who is supposed to represent us,
4 recommended a 4.87 percent; 1 percent less. That
5 is what you call looking after customers? We need
6 to have a Public Service Commission looking after
7 us, and ORS looking after corporations. Never
8 happen.

9 The Public Service Commission has approved
10 everything ORS suggested, but will never have --
11 no, they have not approved what Office of
12 Regulatory Staff suggested. They suggested things,
13 but y'all have not approved. I remember that, from
14 another paper. This is 5/15. They have always
15 given to South Carolina Electric & Gas. They want
16 \$1 billion end of quarter. All their earnings rose
17 11.4 percent over a year ago, rose 24.6 percent
18 higher than results from a year ago.

19 There's some newspaper articles back there
20 that's got what this is on here [indicating], and
21 y'all can look at them. Says results from a year
22 ago, Jenkins from Wisconsin Investment Board said a
23 refund was unusual; meanwhile, the company plans to
24 request another rate hike this month.

25 \$9.8 billion for nuclear plant takes effect in

1 October -- this is the raise, but the plants,
2 they're not going to be working yet. We're going
3 to be paying for something that's not even
4 producing. Reduced contract to -- oh, I was at my
5 cousin's. She kept me for six months because I've
6 been paralyzed, and I died in November. But, I
7 happen to see these trucks cutting the limbs down.
8 And I walked down there, and the license tag said
9 Michigan, and the doors on the truck said he was
10 from Texas. And I was looking around and it was
11 either six or eight Mexicans, and I thought -- I
12 thought South Carolina doesn't have no jobs; wonder
13 why they're not out here doing this job. But, we
14 understand South Carolina Electric & Gas is saving
15 all they can so they can get more from everybody
16 else, when we need jobs. Addison said without
17 extreme weather, it would have been up by 3.7
18 percent, and then he said in another article,
19 federal environmental mandates, equipment,
20 upgrades, shareholders -- praise God for them --
21 and other items, but it doesn't say what other
22 items.

23 Now, on 5/4, now to 11.69 by 2011 for \$280
24 million scrubber. How many do they need? I don't
25 know what scrubbers are.

1 [Laughter]

2 State agency, ORS, who we pay, and then we pay
3 these people. But, you know, I'm proud of y'all.
4 The last time I attended, most of them were
5 sleeping. I'm really proud of y'all staying awake
6 and listening to us. It makes me feel good.

7 [Laughter]

8 Now, the cut -- non-related -- this is what --
9 Office of Regulatory, they want cuts bringing
10 electricity to our homes and businesses. Waste, in
11 the article in the paper. Marsh, who is employed
12 by our wonderful South Carolina Electric & Gas, his
13 salary is \$580,000. Total, \$2,108,101. His
14 concern -- his concern to the customers is to raise
15 capital, keep operating expenses. The main concern
16 are shareholders -- and thank God, because my ex-
17 in-laws had plenty of your shares, and she said,
18 "You ought to buy shares." I said, "I can't even
19 pay my bill."

20 [Laughter]

21 Concern of shareholders, them as well, who
22 expect a decent return at our expense. Praise God.
23 Their return dropped one-third. I know they're
24 starving.

25 Waiting for formal approval to add reactors --

1 it's not been approved -- although raising money
2 from us as a separate hike and approved by the
3 Public Service Commission, 37 percent. This is in
4 the paper 3/18. Then it says 3/14, phasing in
5 annual rate hikes to raise \$1 billion. Two
6 reactors, won't go on-line for several years. Not
7 approved yet. Timmerman stock award, \$4 million.
8 Raise in compensation, 74 percent. I want him to
9 come live with me in my cold house and my hot
10 house. 119 in the summer. I'm on oxygen. I have
11 breathing machines, and then I have a gadget I have
12 to do my pacemaker every morning between 3 and 4.
13 I have to have utilities. But I feel sorry for
14 someone who'd come spend a couple of days with me.
15 And then it says 74 percent top pay and bonuses.
16 Already won approval for rate hikes, paying for
17 something not approved, will never lower bills. In
18 the long run, they'll never do it.

19 Boost \$40 a month. Court action -- court
20 action, read to audience. I've got that in this
21 book from South Carolina Electric & Gas. This is a
22 very interesting book from South Carolina Electric
23 & Gas. It would make you sick. Every other
24 paragraph, it's got ratepayers will pay. It says 6
25 percent rate increases in the past eight quarters.

1 I've got the book and you're welcome to read it. I
2 may never get another one, so read this one.

3 Need to recover investment, strong credit
4 rating. Since 2007, added 24,000 customers,
5 requested 4 percent increase. Now we pay
6 transmission lines, transformers, and generation
7 plants. I know there's somebody in South Carolina
8 that would be willing to take Timmerman's job,
9 because so many don't have jobs. They could take
10 his job and pay him \$100,000; they'd be grateful
11 for \$100,000.

12 First of all, I want to thank our State
13 legislators, Public Service Commission, and State
14 Regulatory for giving South Carolina Electric & Gas
15 blank checks, everything they want. There's no end
16 to their wanting from us. We have no choice, but
17 they have a monopoly. We have no one to turn to.
18 How come the people can't have a Public Service
19 Commission to represent us? Public Service now
20 only represents big corporations. We pay them big
21 salaries. We don't know what else they get after
22 the big salaries.

23 And then on page -- I've got these pages in
24 here where they okayed a whole bunch of stuff for
25 South Carolina Electric & Gas. So, we don't know

1 if they're letting them use their airplanes or
2 taking them out. We don't know.

3 They have the best advertisement at our
4 expense. We go out and borrow money to do what
5 they tell us to do, then I've got to -- I have
6 borrowed \$1,000 to have some windows put in. I
7 didn't even have it. And that didn't help a bit,
8 and somebody come around to my back and said, "Are
9 you Doris?" I said, "Yes," I said, "who are you?"
10 She said, "My name is Doris also, South Carolina
11 Electric & Gas." I guess she didn't believe me.
12 We talked a minute and she wanted to see inside my
13 house. I said, "You don't want to go in there,"
14 and she said, "Yes, I do." So, we walked in. She
15 said, "How do you live in here?" I said, "It's not
16 easy." And she was to come back, and I guess she
17 didn't believe I had an oxygen machine, and she
18 come back to see that -- praise God. But they sent
19 somebody out there, and they put some more windows
20 in my house. Praise God. And I understand through
21 my termite man that they really did a good job in
22 insulating underneath my house, but I don't know
23 about the roof. I don't think anybody -- and I
24 don't have the money.

25 Says they have the best advertisement, I read

1 you that. And a few months after we borrowed the
2 money, they'll still go back up. We got two or
3 three bills, like that man said before, and it says
4 -- and I told you about my house, and it says 4/11
5 -- I can't talk. There was an article from a
6 doctor where he bought a gas heater, thinking his
7 was going to go down. His didn't go down. They
8 have the best attorney lawyers at our expense --
9 praise God. We pay if they get sued for their
10 greed, selling where they're not supposed to,
11 contaminating our land, air, and water.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Fletcher?

13 **WITNESS:** Wait, he talked a long time, and
14 he's got lots of money.

15 [Laughter]

16 Still, they even use our legislature attorney
17 -- I'll be hurrying -- at our expense. DHEC gives
18 them everything they want at our expense. We have
19 to pay our attorneys, which most people don't have
20 any money for paying utility bills. No job; I
21 cannot work. They hired out-of-town people to come
22 to work here.

23 And then it says they have the best lobbyists,
24 at our expense. We can't afford a lobbyist. The
25 lobbyist is one employed to influence legislators

1 to introduce, to vote for measures favorable to the
2 South Carolina Electric & Gas they represent. Let
3 me tell you, the directors -- there are 11 of them.
4 Several of them from out-of-state. They have
5 three-year terms, but usually they get to stay.
6 They had seven meetings in 2009, on page ten. They
7 received \$668,900 total salaries and stock awards
8 -- not all of that's included -- endowment plan
9 after the second term, estimated \$716,339 plan
10 funded through the premium, page 53, and retainer
11 fees, annual -- common stock.

12 Then it says Mid-Carolina. I called them, and
13 they have all volunteers on their boards. They are
14 elected by customers three years, no pay. Have
15 close contact with their customers during the year.

16 Senior officers, like Mr. Timmerman, company
17 salaries compared to mostly utility companies
18 mostly -- some general industry. If they're like
19 South Carolina Electric & Gas, they're ripping us
20 off, and they've got the qualifications and
21 salaries. Mr. Timmerman made \$5,000,033 --

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Fletcher?

23 **WITNESS:** Just a little bit more. That man
24 has a long time. I just don't have the money he
25 has. Addison, \$1,324,335; Marsh, \$2,108,101;

1 Bullwinkel, \$1,567,052; Byrne, \$1,434,000 --

2 VOICE: Okay, just stop right here. Please
3 stop.

4 WITNESS: I'm being nice. I don't have but
5 just one thing.

6 VOICE: Well, they don't give a shit, so come
7 on.

8 WITNESS: No, I -- can I just finish this?
9 You let that man have ten minutes.

10 VOICE: No, they asked you to leave.

11 WITNESS: Can I finish?

12 [Applause.]

13 VOICE: They asked you to leave.

14 WITNESS: I have this -- I don't have the
15 money like that man did. I'm poor.

16 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Ms. Fletcher, if you'd like
17 to submit what you have written into the evidence
18 of the case, we'll be happy to accept it, and it
19 will go into the file, if you'll submit that
20 written information. Would you do that?

21 WITNESS: Yeah.

22 VOICE: Yes, ma'am.

23 WITNESS: But it's not fair.

24 VOICE: It's not fair, but go ahead. Go sit
25 down. They don't care.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We do care.

2 **VOICE:** Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank
3 you. That means a lot. Thank you, thank you,
4 thank you.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Would you like to submit
6 that paper into the evidence?

7 [Applause]

8 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Do we want to reserve a
10 place for that? What is the exhibit number?

11 **MR. BUTLER:** It will be No. 18.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Her written
13 information will be entered into the evidence of
14 the case as Hearing Exhibit No. 18.

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And I do want to say that
16 we all very much care about each and every one of
17 you and hearing what you have to say. That is the
18 reason we have put a time limit on that, so that
19 everyone will have an opportunity to speak and for
20 us to hear what you have to say. And if we didn't
21 do that, there would not be the opportunity but for
22 only a handful of people.

23 With that having been said, would you please
24 call the next witness?

25 **MR. BUTLER:** Yes, Madam Chairman. The next

1 witness would be Mr. Ralph Lewis. Ralph Lewis,
2 please?

3 [WHEREUPON, Mr. Lewis came forward.]

4 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And I just want to indicate
5 that the clock is right here [indicating], so that
6 you can --

7 **MR. LEWIS:** I'm blind.

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** You're blind? If we could
9 get somebody to help him, please? Somebody help
10 him.

11 **MR. RICHARDSON:** [Indicating.]

12 **MR. LEWIS:** I'm Ralph Lewis. 1421 Pine
13 Street, West Columbia, South Carolina 29172.

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Can you sit there?

15 **MR. BUTLER:** Can you have a seat there, Mr.
16 Lewis?

17 **MR. LEWIS:** I can, yes.

18 **MR. BUTLER:** Okay.

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** I think it will be more
20 comfortable for you.

21 [Witness sworn]

22 THEREUPON came,

23 **R A L P H L E W I S ,**
24 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

25 **WITNESS:** I'm Ralph Lewis. Address, 1421 Pine

1 Street, West Columbia, South Carolina 29172.

2 I had originally had mostly questions, but you
3 say we can't ask questions.

4 There is people out there that's trying to
5 live on less than \$1,000 a month. Can't even buy
6 their medicine. I know, because I know some of
7 them. Can't buy their medicine. Some of them
8 don't have food to go on their tables. I know.

9 These people, the CEO makes between \$2 and \$5
10 million a year or more, plus he gets all his
11 expenses paid. He doesn't do without anything to
12 eat, he doesn't do without his medicine. I don't
13 believe either one of you up here does without your
14 food and medicine. You're probably making over
15 \$100,000 a year, too.

16 If I have a business and I want to expand my
17 business, I've got to have the resources or I have
18 to get stock -- people to buy into my business to
19 start another business. But these people don't
20 have to do that. All they got to do is come to the
21 Public Service Commission and say, "We need more
22 money. We need more money," and the Public Service
23 Commission gives it to them!

24 **VOICE:** That's right.

25 **WITNESS:** You give it to them. I would like

1 to ask you one question. In the past 20 years, how
2 many times have you ever turned these people down
3 for a raise? Tell me. Nobody got nothing to say,
4 have you? Because you know good and well you have
5 never turned them down for nothing. You might have
6 reduced it a little bit, but you haven't ever
7 turned them down.

8 Jesse James used a gun. These utility
9 companies uses the Public Service Commission to get
10 what they want.

11 **VOICE:** Right.

12 **WITNESS:** That's all I have to say. I think
13 that's enough.

14 [Applause]

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Please. This is a court
16 hearing, and we need you to maintain order during
17 the hearing.

18 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chair.

19 **MR. NELSON:** No questions, Madam Chairman.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Commissioners?

21 [No response]

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And, Mr. Lewis, as we said
23 earlier, we're not able --

24 **WITNESS:** Speak up please. I can't hear you.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We are not able up here to

1 answer questions. That's part of the rules of law
2 that we have in a court proceeding. But, anyway,
3 if you go -- if someone can go on-line, and you can
4 get a lot of that information.

5 **WITNESS:** I don't have a computer, and I don't
6 have anybody to go on-line for me, ma'am.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Well, you can ask the
8 parties after the hearing. If you'll go up to the
9 Office of Regulatory Staff or to the people for
10 South Carolina Electric & Gas Company, they can
11 give you the answer to your question.

12 **WITNESS:** They can give me the answers to my
13 questions? They can give me their answers, but can
14 they give me the answer? No, they will not.

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** They should give you a
16 truthful answer.

17 **WITNESS:** Ma'am, I trust them and you like I
18 trust a rattlesnake and it fixin' to bite.

19 [Laughter]

20 **WITNESS:** Anything else before I move? Thank
21 you.

22 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

23 **MR. BUTLER:** Okay. I'd like to call Debi
24 Hacker, please. Debi Hacker?

25 [Witness affirmed]

1 THEREUPON came,

2 D E B I H A C K E R,

3 who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

4 WITNESS: I'll be within five minutes, so we
5 can catch up. My name is Debi Hacker. I live at
6 861 Arbutus Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29205.
7 I've been a citizen of South Carolina, voting and
8 paying taxes, for over 25 years. Although that's
9 not what my accent says.

10 Just real quickly, this is all that I need to
11 say: Electricity is required for daily life in the
12 United States. We need it for refrigeration of
13 food, we need it for cooking the food, we need it
14 for lights, and we need it for HVAC. God forbid,
15 you don't have air conditioning, you'll end up
16 having the fire department take you down to a
17 shelter in July or August.

18 In most of South Carolina's 46 counties, SCE&G
19 maintains a monopoly, and we have no option to
20 choose another provider. I do not live in
21 Clarendon County. I do not live in Sumter or
22 Orangeburg. I live in Richland County. SCE&G does
23 not offer variable use rates, which allow customers
24 to make the choice to pay less by using energy
25 during low-volume hours and pay more during high-

1 peak hours. Hello, I'd be more than glad to do my
2 laundry in the middle of the night to make less
3 volume on y'all, and I pay less for being a little
4 bit out of my way.

5 What are the reasons for the increase request?
6 To pay for the \$6 million cleaners that are needed
7 to comply with federal government requirements;
8 what everybody else has to do. \$6 million is less
9 than 1/2 of 1 percent of SCANA's total value, and
10 about one year of salaries and benefits for the top
11 executives of SCANA and SCE&G. And I bet y'all
12 don't get your socks at Wal-Mart, either.

13 [Laughter]

14 When executives have that much compensation,
15 the company itself is immoral to ask customers to
16 pay for requirements from the federal government.
17 Requirements that every other electric company in
18 our country has to comply with.

19 SCE&G employees have not had a raise since
20 2008. Wow, I am astonished. Because my company
21 hasn't had a raise since 9/11 occurred.

22 **VOICE:** That's right.

23 **WITNESS:** We have had to cut employees at my
24 company since 9/11 occurred. I cannot go to my
25 clients and say, "Wow, electricity has gone up

1 again, so my price for doing work for your company
2 is going to go up." They won't choose me. I'm not
3 a monopoly. It's not fair.

4 Many companies, State agencies, are requiring
5 unpaid furloughs. When we have fourth-graders in
6 the State of South Carolina that cannot read at a
7 first-grade level and we are furloughing teachers,
8 it is not a good time to be asking for the rest of
9 us to pay for the scrubbers -- which are entirely
10 necessary; I can explain them to people.

11 For these reasons, the Public Service
12 Commission, if it grants this increase, will be in
13 immoral collusion with SCE&G. Just like all the
14 other for-profit companies in the United States,
15 they need to save their money, they need to invest
16 their money, they need to use their money properly
17 and not lay it entirely on the feet of the forced
18 customers of the State of South Carolina.

19 And in point of honesty, my husband has had
20 SCANA stock for over 25 years. But also a point of
21 honesty, I have a 95 percent disabled adult
22 daughter. She's unable to work. She gets \$600 a
23 month. She is squeezing pennies. She cannot work.
24 She can't push her electric wheelchair. She can
25 feed herself, but she can't brush her teeth. Where

1 is she and other people in like situations supposed
2 to come up with more money? SSI is not going to
3 give her more money because ya'll need it. Thank
4 you.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

6 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

8 **MR. NELSON:** No questions. Thank you, Ms.
9 Hacker.

10 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

11 [No response]

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may step
13 down. Thank you.

14 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

15 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

16 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Sharon Taylor.
17 Sharon Taylor, please?

18 [Witness sworn]

19 THEREUPON came,

20 **S H A R O N T A Y L O R ,**

21 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

22 **WITNESS:** My name is Sharon Taylor, 26 Misty
23 Morning Drive, Columbia, South Carolina.

24 My concern is that we're attempting to raise
25 rates when South Carolinians are already suffering,

1 okay, with the high cost of energy, and we have the
2 highest unemployment rate in the nation at this
3 time. So, we're trying to burden our customers
4 with higher energy costs. Any percentage, whether
5 it's 1 percent, 4 percent, or anything, would be a
6 disservice to your members in South Carolina.

7 They already do not have any discretionary
8 income to afford anything other than what they are
9 already paying. My understanding is the
10 unemployment -- excuse me -- the minimum wage is \$7
11 or \$7.55. Even to raise it 4 percent, 4.88 percent
12 on a \$150 bill would be \$7.32, which is an hour's
13 salary for a person.

14 Businesses are suffering because every time
15 you raise the rates on SCE&G, you are suffering the
16 small business. Small business is your lifeline in
17 South Carolina. Businesses are not going to grow
18 if they have to pay more money -- if the person has
19 to pay more money out of their pocket, they're
20 going to buy less things at the store, less
21 disposable income, less discretionary income to use
22 for other things. People have children, summer is
23 coming, they're not going to be able to go anywhere
24 because they're too busy paying SCE&G for their
25 services.

1 Now, I know that in the wintertime they said
2 that the bill went higher. Yes, that's true.
3 However, no one used their services any
4 differently. I personally did everything that was
5 on their website to do, to make my bill lower,
6 okay? I insulated my home. I put in those bulbs
7 that you cannot dispose of, okay? I went and took
8 out this Carrier thing that was draining my bill.
9 So, I went around the house and I did everything
10 they told me to do, and my bill still doubled. So,
11 if I'm going to do what you tell me to do and I'm
12 going to freeze to death in the winter, then I
13 deserve a price break. Okay?

14 SCE&G, as everybody has said, is a monopoly.
15 This is the first state I have ever been where you
16 do not have a choice. Okay? If I don't like the
17 restaurant that I eat in, I can go to another
18 restaurant. If I don't like the landscaper I have,
19 I can look in the Yellow Pages and find how many.
20 However, because I don't like what SCE&G does, I'm
21 stuck with it. Too bad, so sad, you're stuck with
22 it. Okay? If this is a democratic society, okay,
23 that we live in -- this country was built on
24 competition, yet SCE&G has none. How possible is
25 that in 2010? We have no freedoms when it comes to

1 our services.

2 I ask that you reconsider this, because it is
3 a way of our life at stake, okay? If you don't
4 change this, we're not going to be able to turn on
5 our lights. Okay? If you have to do this, then
6 you need to really reconsider this and table this
7 at least until next year. Let our economy get back
8 on track, let people get jobs, let people pay their
9 other bills. Let people feed their children, let
10 people clothe their children before you change this
11 rule and make it cost us more for our electricity.
12 And I'm very energy conscious. I turn off all my
13 lights. I do everything. And our bill still keeps
14 going up. So, it's unfair to us to make us do
15 stuff and buy new things, and then you turn around
16 and you still put us back in the same position of a
17 higher bill. That's all. Thank you.

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, Ms. Taylor. Are
19 there any questions?

20 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions for Ms. Taylor.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

22 **CROSS EXAMINATION**

23 **BY MR. NELSON:**

24 **Q** Ms. Taylor, I didn't get your address. Could you give
25 me your address?

1 **A** 26 Misty Morning Drive.

2 **MR. NELSON:** No more questions, Madam Chair.

3 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. And Commissioners?

4 [No response]

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may step
6 down.

7 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Before the next witness
9 comes up, we just realized that we failed to put
10 Mr. Joe's slides into the evidence of the case.
11 And we are reserving a space for that, Mr. Joe, as
12 Hearing Exhibit No. 19.

13 **MR. BUTLER:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. With
14 that, we'd like to call Dametris Thompson.
15 Dametris Thompson, please?

16 [Witness sworn]

17 THEREUPON came,

18 **D A M E T R I S T H O M P S O N ,**
19 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

20 **WITNESS:** My name is Dametris Thompson. I
21 stay at 917 Stebondale Road in Columbia, South
22 Carolina.

23 And I just want to say I am concerned that
24 SCE&G requires rate hikes to do their business. I
25 don't -- it's my concern that they weren't

1 originally set up to operate in this fashion. If
2 they get money from kilowatt-hours, that would be
3 understandable, but I don't see what would
4 discourage them from keep coming to these rate
5 hikes if you all keep giving them money. They seem
6 to make more business off getting rate hikes than
7 in selling kilowatt-hours. So, that's my concern.

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Any questions?

9 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

10 **MR. NELSON:** No questions, Madam Chair. Thank
11 you.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Commissioners?

13 [No response]

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may step
15 down. Thank you.

16 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

17 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Doris Caldwell.
18 Doris Caldwell, please?

19 [Witness sworn]

20 THEREUPON came,

21 **D O R I S C A L D W E L L ,**
22 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

23 **WITNESS:** My name is Doris Caldwell.

24 **MR. BUTLER:** Can you come a little closer to
25 the mike, Ms. Caldwell, please?

1 **WITNESS:** Yes, sir [indicating].

2 **MR. BUTLER:** Thank you.

3 **WITNESS:** My name is Doris Caldwell. I live
4 at 5729 Colonial Drive.

5 This is a cry for mercy to anyone who will
6 listen. Thank you for this chance to make this
7 plea on behalf of so many people who feel they have
8 no voice. For South Carolina Electric & Gas to
9 request a rate increase in this day and time, it
10 seems to be insensitive to our customers. We
11 cannot afford a rate increase on our electric
12 bills.

13 We're the elderly who are on fixed incomes and
14 are already stretching our dollar most of the time
15 and do not know where the next dollar is coming
16 from in these economy times, when just meeting the
17 necessary bills to survive is so hard now. It has
18 people -- we have people who are losing their homes
19 probably because of losing their jobs or because
20 they cannot get assistance to meet these necessary
21 bills. Having electric and gas is not an option;
22 it's necessary. So this bill must be paid or
23 without service.

24 What are we going to do when we cannot pay the
25 bill? The summertime, when the temperature gets so

1 hot, it gets in the 90s and even 100s. And what
2 about when the winter comes and there's no heat to
3 protect us from the chilling and freezing
4 temperature? We're living in a time when we are
5 not getting a cost-of-living increase or raises on
6 jobs, so how are we going to pay an increase with
7 the same amount of money that is already not enough
8 to pay the bills?

9 I make a plea to the Public Service Commission
10 to please think of the residents of this great
11 community and deny the rate increase that South
12 Carolina Electric & Gas requests. To South
13 Carolina Electric & Gas: think of your loyal
14 customer who, in so many cases, are struggling to
15 pay their bills now. Please have mercy.

16 Thank you so much for listening, and I pray
17 that these words do not fall on deaf ears.

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, Ms. Caldwell.
19 Mr. Burgess?

20 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chairman.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

22 **MR. NELSON:** No questions. Thank you.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

24 [No response]

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** You may step down. Thank

1 you.

2 **WITNESS:** Thank you. Can I get some water?

3 **MR. BUTLER:** Sure.

4 **WITNESS:** [Indicating.]

5 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

6 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Joel Z. Price,
7 please. Joel Z. Price?

8 [Witness sworn]

9 THEREUPON came,

10 **J O E L Z . P R I C E ,**

11 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

12 **WITNESS:** My name is Joel Price. I reside at
13 1747 Holly Hill Drive, West Columbia, South
14 Carolina 29169.

15 SCE&G's original request was for a 9.5 percent
16 increase. We were led to believe this was for
17 required governmental environmental upgrades of
18 plants. We have since become aware that part of
19 the increase was as follows: \$12.6 million for
20 employee bonuses and raises; \$228,000 for employee
21 service awards and newsletters; \$260,000 for
22 lobbying expenses; \$52,604 for aircraft fees;
23 \$101,800 for meals and entertainment; \$52,300 for
24 membership dues. This totals \$13,294,700. That
25 request has subsequently been changed to a 4.88

1 percent increase, as it was deemed that those
2 charges have nothing to do with the required
3 upgrades.

4 If the 4.88 percent increase, which is an
5 average -- residential rates I'm advised will be
6 higher, but we don't know what that figure will be
7 until after the Public Service Commission makes
8 their decision. As Mr. Burgess said, increases in
9 the bills will be 2.5 percent in July of 2010, 1.2
10 percent in July of 2011, and 1.18 percent in July
11 of 2012. The question that I have is, when does
12 SCE&G project the money for this mandate to be
13 raised? Will that be a year after the final rate
14 increase would go into effect, if all 4.88 percent
15 were approved?

16 If the Public Service Commission authorizes
17 this or any other request concerning the required
18 governmental mandate, when the money has been
19 raised, SCE&G should be required to reduce the
20 bills by the same percent as they were raised to
21 pay for the governmental mandate. Likewise, SCE&G
22 can raise rates each year until 2019 to pay for the
23 two reactors in Fairfield County. It is expected
24 to raise monthly bills by \$40 a month by the end of
25 the decade, or a 37 percent increase through this

1 period. Since this will be paid for by 2019 or
2 2020, SCE&G should be required to lower the bills
3 by the same percentage as they were raised to pay
4 for the reactors.

5 I believe that there has existed a certain
6 level of trust between SCE&G and most of its
7 customers. Your initial request, and subsequently
8 what some of the increase was for, has certainly
9 tainted this trust. Thank you.

10 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you. Mr.
11 Burgess?

12 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chairman.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

14 **MR. NELSON:** No questions. Thank you, Mr.
15 Price.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

17 [No response]

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may step
19 down.

20 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

21 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

22 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Iona Hunter.
23 Iona Hunter, please?

24 [Witness sworn]

25 <

1 THEREUPON came,

2 I O N A H U N T E R ,

3 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4 WITNESS: I too am against a rate hike, and I
5 would like to ask that the Commissioners and those
6 representative of SCE&G consider gravely the
7 concept of instituting a change that is a veritable
8 way -- use of electricity. And I'm going to say it
9 very plainly, so that it's understood by all in
10 attendance or all who read or consider. There are
11 hours at night until early in the morning that we
12 can use our electricity for household chores, that
13 cost us less. I have never heard of our electric
14 company considering such.

15 I find this appalling. I'm looking at our
16 country, and I'm seeing what's happening to it, and
17 it's time we in South Carolina -- we good people,
18 who claim to be Christians, you see; we have
19 churches on every corner, sometimes two or three --
20 it is time we put this act together. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Just a minute please. We
22 need to --

23 WITNESS: I am Iona Hunter. I have for years
24 been a resident over in Columbia, South Carolina.
25 I am currently a resident of Lexington County. I

1 haven't been here 90 years yet, so I don't know if
2 I'm considered a member of the community yet, but I
3 am currently a member of Lexington County. I live
4 at 103 Robin Forest Drive, West Columbia, South
5 Carolina. And thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Hunter, if you would
7 just wait just a minute and let's see if there are
8 any questions.

9 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions for Ms. Hunter.
10 Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Mr. Nelson?

12 **MR. NELSON:** No questions. Thank you, Ms.
13 Hunter.

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

15 [No response]

16 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. You may step
18 down.

19 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

20 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Mark Harris.
21 Mark Harris, please?

22 **MR. HARRIS:** I decline.

23 **MR. BUTLER:** Thank you, sir. What about
24 Denise Rodgers? Denise Rodgers, please?

25 **VOICE:** Did you call Doris Berry?

1 **MR. BUTLER:** No, ma'am.

2 [Witness affirmed]

3 THEREUPON came,

4 **D E N I S E R O D G E R S ,**

5 who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

6 **WITNESS:** I'm Denise Rodgers. My business is
7 in Batesburg, which is Lexington County -- that's
8 why I'm here -- at 567 West Church Street. My
9 house, though, is in Ridge Spring, South Carolina.
10 So, I have two bills that I have to pay to SCE&G.

11 I'm a single mom; I have two kids. I have a
12 small pet grooming shop in Batesburg, and this past
13 payment with two bills combined, was more than my
14 house payment. And my house payment includes
15 insurance and taxes.

16 And I just need to put that out there that I
17 cannot afford to keep paying this if it keeps going
18 up. I'm not in favor of this increase. Thank you
19 for listening to me.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Ms. Rodgers, if
21 you'll just wait and see if there are questions.

22 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

24 **MR. NELSON:** No questions. Thank you, Ms.
25 Rodgers.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

2 [No response]

3 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

4 **WITNESS:** Sorry.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** You beat me to the draw.

6 You may step down.

7 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

8 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Gerald Rudolph.

9 Gerald Rudolph, please?

10 [Witness affirmed]

11 THEREUPON came,

12 **G E R A L D R U D O L P H ,**

13 who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

14 **WITNESS:** Is it possible to have that first
15 slide put up, with the chart?

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If you'll give us just a
17 minute.

18 [Brief pause]

19 **WITNESS:** If I understand what they said
20 correctly, the yellow represents money that was
21 taken and is being returned. It was taken
22 inappropriately, and because of the normalization
23 and these other monies that they're giving back,
24 that they're now giving it back to you and calling
25 it a reduction in your rate increase. I think it's

1 more appropriate to see this as it is; it's 4.88
2 percent all the way across. But instead of giving
3 you a lump sum check, they're going to dole your
4 money back to you little by little over the next
5 two years. So, I think they're inappropriately
6 characterizing this.

7 I think this whole thing, this whole scheme
8 that they're -- SCE&G asked for more rates, the
9 public -- their service commission grants their
10 rates to it. It's all a mechanism for SCE&G
11 getting more easy money. I think they spend money
12 on lobbying, so that they can get more easy money
13 from that, pay the lobbyists -- get -- but through
14 that, SCE&G is able to select the people that they
15 have on the Public Service Commission. I think the
16 people that are there are not interested in the
17 public's interest; they're interested in serving
18 the people who have managed to put them there.

19 I think that as the public we should start
20 calling for deregulation of the production of
21 energy and so that we can have competition in the
22 production of energy, so that we don't have to have
23 this monopoly here that will continue to give them
24 rates as they want them and provide more easy money
25 for Timmerman and his company and the people on

1 this Commission. Thank you.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, Mr. Rudolph.
3 Mr. Burgess?

4 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Just a minute.

6 **MR. NELSON:** No questions, Madam Chair.
7 Thanks.

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** No questions?
9 Commissioners.

10 [No response]

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may step
12 down.

13 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

14 **MR. BUTLER:** I call Carman Daniels. Carman
15 Daniels, please?

16 [Witness sworn]

17 THEREUPON came,

18 **C A R M A N D A N I E L S ,**

19 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

20 **WITNESS:** Hi. Got the clock running. My name
21 is Carman Daniels. I'm originally from Wilmington,
22 Delaware. I met my husband in Branson, Missouri,
23 who lived here in South Carolina, in 2007.

24 We have an agreement between us, and the
25 electric bill is my bill; I have to pay that bill.

1 And when I came here in 2007, the electric bill was
2 \$89. Today, the electric bill is \$286. During the
3 winter the bill went up to like \$400-and-something,
4 and I -- there's nobody in our home but me and my
5 husband.

6 I wash my clothes at night. I'm a student at
7 the University of Phoenix. I do everything at
8 night. And during the day -- and I keep the
9 electric -- I changed the light bulbs like the
10 other lady. I've done everything I could to
11 energize it. I'm not understanding why. I'm not
12 using more electricity, yet the bill is going up.
13 I really need some understanding and help with
14 that.

15 And listening to the others that I've listened
16 to that spoke here tonight, the money that they're
17 asking us for, basically they're asking us to give
18 them money to pay for their -- their free -- the
19 money that they -- their wages, basically. Their
20 wages, their play time, all the other services they
21 need in their company. They're asking us to pay
22 that. So, if you're running a company and if you
23 are getting the money from the public, the money
24 that you get for -- that you gain from what you get
25 from your employment, that's all your money and you

1 don't never have to use it. You just keep using
2 money from people that don't have it, and elderly
3 people who just -- they're based on a fixed income.
4 They don't have the money.

5 When I paid this electric bill, there's a
6 group -- there's like X amount of dollars in this
7 pile, and I have to pay everything I have to pay
8 out of that pile. If you increase that rate, I
9 would have to take money from somewhere -- where am
10 I going to get this money from, this other place,
11 to fill in for the increase in that rate? So, that
12 means I can't go to the beach, or I can't get a new
13 car, or I can't do something that I desire to do
14 because I have to take that money from there to do
15 that. And it's money that I don't have. So,
16 you're going to have to cut something in order to
17 get something if they get this rate, and I am
18 totally, totally against them receiving this
19 increase. Thank you.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, Ms. Daniels.
21 Mr. Burgess?

22 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

24 **MR. NELSON:** I don't have any questions. But,
25 Ms. Daniels, if you could see Brad Kirby, one of

1 our Consumer Services Department reps -- Brad's
2 back there by the door -- he could take a look at
3 your bill.

4 **WITNESS:** Thank you. Yes.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners? Yes,
6 Commissioner Wright.

7 **EXAMINATION**

8 **BY COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:**

9 **Q** An address? I don't know that I caught your address.

10 **A** Yes, it's 7201 Hunt Club Road, Columbia, South Carolina.
11 It's 29223.

12 **COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:** Thank you.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Any others?

14 [No response]

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. You may step
16 down.

17 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

18 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Helen L. Jett.
19 Helen L. Jett, please?

20 [Witness sworn]

21 THEREUPON came,

22 **H E L E N L . J E T T ,**
23 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

24 **WITNESS:** Good evening. I'm here because I'm
25 very concerned, because I'm on a fixed income, and

1 I'm speaking for myself. And I live in a one-
2 family home; first home I've ever bought. I came
3 to South Carolina from upstate New York, and I came
4 here to start a new life for myself.

5 But, my point is, we come out, we vote, we
6 support the politicians. And I don't see any
7 politician, any representatives here tonight. But
8 when it comes to election time, they're all up in
9 your face, they want you to put the signs in front
10 of your house, and you know, they're begging you
11 for this and they're begging you for that.

12 But the point is, these are hard times, sirs,
13 ma'am. You know, we need your help. You know, we
14 just don't have it. People are crying, people are
15 hurting. People are killing people, robbing
16 people, because they can't afford to eat or to take
17 care of their kids, you know. And I really wish
18 you would really consider not giving SCE&G -- we
19 should be able to have another electrical company
20 to choose from, like other counties. We should not
21 be just stuck with one electrical company, because
22 see, when you give these people the opportunity to
23 just dog people over and over and over again, they
24 don't have a choice, then things get way out of
25 control.

1 But, we need your help on this decision.
2 Please vote in the people's favor this one time,
3 and give us some consideration. I thank you for
4 your time.

5 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. Let's see, are
6 there any questions?

7 MR. BURGESS: No, ma'am, no questions.

8 CROSS EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. NELSON:

10 Q Ms. Jett, I didn't get your address.

11 A Oh, I'm sorry. I live at 804 Wickham Lane in Columbia,
12 South Carolina. 29229 is my ZIP Code.

13 MR. NELSON: Thank you. No further questions,
14 Madam Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. Commissioners?

16 [No response]

17 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. You may step
18 down.

19 WITNESS: Thank you.

20 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

21 MR. BUTLER: I call Vince Scotti. Vince
22 Scotti, please?

23 [Witness sworn]

24 <

25 <

1 THEREUPON came,

2 V I N C E S C O T T I ,

3 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4 WITNESS: My name is Vince Scotti. I live at
5 1015 Majestic Circle, Northeast Columbia, 29223.

6 I'm honored to be here, given how eloquent --
7 how eloquently so many other people have expressed
8 what we all feel. This is the first time I've come
9 to a session like this. It will be the last.

10 The problem we have -- everyone that sat here
11 has been preaching to the choir. We all have the
12 same feeling. I would be willing to bet no one
13 came here to support the increase.

14 [Laughter]

15 Just a guess. We talked about rates. 1,000
16 kilowatt-hours for SCE&G is \$118.79 today, which
17 represents -- which is between 20 and 30 percent
18 more than Duke, Progress, or Santee Cooper. Now,
19 if they were providing electricity in another state
20 -- and I made this comparison -- I could understand
21 there might be variations that would allow that.
22 These people are giving us -- giving South Carolina
23 electricity at a considerably lower rate than SCE&G
24 is. But, excellent points made. The problem is,
25 who is really listening? I mean, I'm beginning to

1 feel like this was a large rhetorical discussion.
2 The feeling I get from some of these people -- one
3 of my favorite movies is *Frankenstein*. And at one
4 part, of course, all the villagers come out with
5 pitchforks and torches and everything, storm the
6 castle, and they're going to take care of
7 Frankenstein. I don't have to illustrate who
8 Frankenstein is here. And I say I'm not coming to
9 another one of these because, you know, they both
10 have said any number of times that they have no
11 questions. Well, the problem is we all have
12 questions, and no one is required to give any sort
13 of an answer.

14 So again, this is all just a large rhetorical
15 discussion. And that's unfortunate. That's all I
16 have.

17 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions for Mr. Scotti.

18 [Laughter]

19 **MR. NELSON:** I hesitate to say this, but no
20 questions.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Commissioners?

22 [No response]

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may step
24 down.

25 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** At this time we're going to
2 take a ten-minute break, so we'll start back
3 between 20 and 15 till.

4 [WHEREUPON, a recess was taken from 7:30
5 to 7:45 p.m.]

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Please be seated. This
7 hearing will now come to order. Mr. Butler, if you
8 would call the next witness, please?

9 **MR. BUTLER:** Yes, Madam Chairman. The next
10 witness is Mr. William Bevel. William Bevel,
11 please?

12 [No response]

13 **MR. BUTLER:** Has anyone seen Mr. Bevel? Okay.
14 What about Doris Berry?

15 [Witness sworn]

16 THEREUPON came,

17 **D O R I S B E R R Y ,**
18 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

19 **WITNESS:** My name is Doris Berry. I live at
20 51 Bear Creek Road, Little Mountain, South
21 Carolina.

22 This is the first time I've ever had a
23 complaint with the South Carolina Electric & Gas.
24 For nearly 60 years I've had their electricity.
25 Now, I called them concerning my bills, and I was

1 told that they would help. I wasn't asking them to
2 help me pay the bill; I was asking for some time.
3 When I called them, they told me that I would be
4 subject to a late charge, the unpaid balance. Now,
5 that's not helping. That's not helping a person.

6 First of all, I'm on a fixed income. I'm the
7 only person using this electricity. My house is
8 heavily insulated in the roof; the windows are also
9 insulated. My house has hardwood flooring in it,
10 with an undercover underneath that hardwood
11 flooring. It is well insulated. All right, I'm
12 going to give you some numbers from the first of
13 the year. January, my bill was \$238.45. February,
14 it was \$330.48. For March, after I called them and
15 talked to them and gave them a good discussion, it
16 went down to \$273 in March. April is \$249.17.

17 Now, I'm against any raises that South
18 Carolina Electric & Gas would have. I'm against
19 it. And I live about ten miles, maybe a little bit
20 more, from the reactor there in Little Mountain
21 now. That's in Jenkinsville. And every time that
22 alarm goes off, you get scared, because you don't
23 know what's happening. Okay? I live there. I've
24 lived there 25 years. Now, I've had South Carolina
25 Electric & Gas since I was in my early twenties.

1 I've had South Carolina Electric & Gas that long,
2 since I was in my early twenties. This is my first
3 complaint.

4 Now, I can't continue taking and paying these
5 bills. And if you people keep giving these raises,
6 we're not going to be able to make it. Now, I've
7 cut back, because like I said, I'm on a fixed
8 income. A lot of these people that's been up here
9 have been on a fixed income. I can't continue
10 paying these bills. I'm not going to eat. And I
11 don't know whether any of you care at all. I don't
12 know.

13 But, this is all I have to say at this time.
14 I'm the only person that lives in this house, and I
15 have been there 25 years, and I've seen -- they put
16 a new meter in my house, on my house. I asked them
17 not to do it, because I felt that was going to be
18 bad news, and it has been.

19 [Indiscernible vocalizations from
20 audience]

21 It's been bad news. So since they put the new
22 meter on that house at their -- they wanted to do
23 it. I did not want them to do it. I asked them
24 not to. They went and took my old meter off and
25 put in a new digital. So now I have these big

1 bills that I cannot pay. I'm asking you as
2 Commissioners not to give them a raise. I'm
3 against it. 60 years is a long time with no
4 complaints. Thank you.

5 **MR. BUTLER:** Ms. Berry, could you hold on just
6 a second?

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Berry, let's see if
8 there are any questions.

9 **WITNESS:** Okay.

10 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions for Ms.
11 Berry.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

13 **MR. NELSON:** I don't have any questions of Ms.
14 Berry. If you could see Brad Kirby, who is with
15 our Consumer Affairs Office, I would appreciate it.

16 **WITNESS:** Oh, okay.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Berry?

18 **WITNESS:** Who are you with? I don't want to
19 talk to just anybody.

20 **MR. NELSON:** The Office of Regulatory Staff.

21 **WITNESS:** Who?

22 **MR. NELSON:** The Office of Regulatory Staff.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Berry?

24 **WITNESS:** Yeah, I'll talk to him.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Berry? Ms. Berry.

1 **WITNESS:** Yes, ma'am.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If you could just wait and
3 let's see if the Commissioners have any questions.

4 **WITNESS:** All right.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Are there any questions?

6 [No response]

7 **EXAMINATION**

8 **BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:**

9 **Q** Well, I do have one. Ms. Berry?

10 **A** All right.

11 **Q** You gave us your bills starting in January.

12 **A** Uh-huh.

13 **Q** What did it run before the new meter was put in?

14 **A** A lot less. When the old meter was in, it was a lot
15 less. Now, I realize we had a very cold winter. I
16 realize that. And I took that in consideration for the
17 first two months, but when I got that \$330 -- I can't
18 keep that up.

19 **Q** So, your bill did go up considerably --

20 **A** Considerably.

21 **Q** -- with the new meter?

22 **A** Yeah, you figure these bills up, you've got over \$1,000
23 in just a few months. I don't have that kind of money.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Thank you.

25 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

1 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

2 MR. BUTLER: I'll call Lorena Hildebrand.

3 Lorena Hildebrand, please?

4 [Witness sworn]

5 THEREUPON came,

6 L O R E N A H I L D E B R A N D ,

7 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

8 WITNESS: Hello, Public Service Commission
9 members and members of the public. Thank you for
10 giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is
11 Lorena Hildebrand. My address is 100 Riverbend
12 Drive, West Columbia, South Carolina 29169.

13 I'm a rising senior at Winthrop University and
14 as a resident in this area, I'm also an SCE&G
15 customer. I'm here to address the proposed rate
16 hikes by SCE&G in the context of SCE&G's overall
17 energy plans for South Carolina. I would also like
18 to submit my written comments for the record.

19 In February 2010, the Public Service
20 Commission approved SCE&G's plan to build two new
21 nuclear reactor plants at VC Summer Station. This
22 approval was granted on a demonstrated public need
23 and necessity on the assumption that, one, there
24 was an increased need for the base-load capacity
25 because energy efficiency, renewables, and other

1 alternatives were considered inefficient and/or too
2 costly. Two, SCE&G could meet the overnight cost
3 of \$9.8 billion for the two plants. This assumes
4 that everything in the contract can be delivered in
5 24 hours without inflation, construction costs, or
6 interest. That SCE&G could be allowed to assess
7 their customers a construction-work-in-progress
8 rate hike of 37 percent over 11 years. This would
9 amount to an increase for the average customer of
10 nearly \$40 a month by 2020, or \$470 per year. This
11 increase has been marketed as interest savings to
12 the ratepayer on the \$1.2 billion construction
13 cost, but it is an unsecured expense, exclusive of
14 any other charges, and it will occur whether the
15 reactors are completed or not. And finally,
16 SCE&G's current capacity of 5,745 megawatts is
17 insufficient to support demand projects forecast in
18 2008. These are the four assumptions.

19 But clearly, as the other members of the
20 public have demonstrated, a lot has happened since
21 2008. Namely, a devastating recession that has
22 wiped out trillions of dollars in taxpayer assets
23 and has also hurt my family, personally. Today,
24 several million homeowners are in foreclosure and
25 some 10 million without jobs. South Carolina has

1 among the highest unemployment rates in the
2 country.

3 Reflecting this steep downturn in the economy,
4 SCE&G has developed three projection scenarios.
5 The final one is titled a low-load scenario. It
6 shows a complete loss of the projected electricity
7 market, approximately 1,200 megawatts. This is a
8 striking number. It's the entire share of SCE&G's
9 ownership of two reactors. It is the same number
10 of megawatts that were used by SCE&G to make its
11 case for a public need and necessity to build two
12 plants.

13 We do not know what the future economy holds,
14 but dozens of leading economists are projecting a
15 slow and painful recovery from the current
16 recession. Even if they're not, shouldn't SCE&G
17 have to explain what contingency plans it has in
18 place if demand remains stagnant and negates the
19 need for even one of these two plants?

20 How does 1,200 megawatts of surplus capacity
21 meet the public need and necessity standard used to
22 justify the plants? Who will buy these 1,200
23 megawatts of surplus electricity? And at what
24 price? Who will bear the cost of these unneeded
25 reactors? The ratepayers? And at what cost?

1 If these plants are not built, what happens to
2 the \$1.2 billion that SCE&G is charging ratepayers
3 upfront to build the plants? At this point, no one
4 in the public knows. Don't we have a right to
5 know?

6 **VOICE:** That's right.

7 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

8 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chair.

9 **MR. NELSON:** No questions. Thank you.

10 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Just a minute, please.
11 Commissioners, are there any questions?

12 [No response]

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You wanted to
14 enter your written information into the evidence of
15 the case?

16 **WITNESS:** Yes.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. That will be
18 entered into the evidence of the case as Hearing
19 Exhibit No. 20. And if you'll just give that to
20 Ms. Wheat. If you need a copy, we -- all right.
21 Thank you.

22 [WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit No. 20 was
23 marked and received in evidence.]

24 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

25 **MR. BUTLER:** Madam Chairman, I'll call Mary

1 Gillard. Mary Gillard, please?

2 [Witness sworn]

3 THEREUPON came,

4 M A R Y G I L L A R D ,

5 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

6 WITNESS: I may have to sit and stand. I've
7 had back surgery.

8 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Okay, whatever is most
9 comfortable for you.

10 WITNESS: My name is Mary Gillard. My address
11 is 1104 Bentley Court, Columbia, 29210.

12 I'm here also to talk in not allowing SCE&G to
13 have this rate increase. We speak about the Bible,
14 okay? Not one time did we open up in prayer as one
15 nation under God. Are we one nation under God? In
16 God we trust; we have that on the money. Are we
17 using his money -- his money; 100 percent is his.
18 You know, even though he gives you 80 percent, but
19 all of it belongs to him to do a good deed; not to
20 do, you know, your own personal gain.

21 You know, so we have to look at ourselves in
22 the mirror and ask ourselves, have we helped
23 somebody with the increase that we have gotten? Do
24 I need all this money? Do I need ten cars? You
25 know, so, I mean, let us be our brothers' keepers

1 if that's -- you know, if we are Christians. Let
2 us learn to live together and smile and love one
3 another. You know, so, I mean, that was one of the
4 things that, you know, I hear a lot of people
5 talking about, based on how much money the CEO is
6 getting and all of that. But, we have to be
7 accountable, held accountable, and not for each
8 other but for those of us who are hoping to make it
9 to a higher place, when we go, we have to be
10 accountable to that person, whoever your God is.

11 And also, I'm on disability, and I'm only 47
12 years old. And that's not a choice that I want to
13 be on disability. I had an accident. I was with
14 the nursing, and lifting the patients over a period
15 of time caused my back to go out. And I've been
16 dealing with back pain for ten years because I
17 refused to have the surgery. It had gotten so bad
18 that the nerves were -- the bone was on the nerve,
19 so I had to have surgery. Okay, that was last year
20 in November. I'm in worse shape now, after
21 surgery, than before. I had some things that
22 happened. So now, medicines; I need catheters. I
23 have to catheter about six or seven times a day.
24 You know, so all this costs money, and if SCE&G
25 gets this raise, how are we disability -- the

1 people that are on disability and those that are
2 handicapped, SSI and SSID, how we going to get that
3 money? And also, we weren't given a raise this
4 year.

5 **VOICE:** That's right.

6 **WITNESS:** We were not eligible because they
7 say that the rate did not increase; therefore, we
8 didn't get a raise. So, it's like a balanced
9 scale. I mean, if you've got 100 over here and
10 you've got ten over here, we need to, like I said,
11 go right back to the beginning, be our brothers'
12 keepers. Do a good deed for somebody, you know?

13 You'd be amazed; the more you give, the more
14 you get. Not the more you get, the more you keep.
15 You know.

16 [Laughter]

17 You know, so hey, you will have to answer.
18 And as far as the stimulus, why give us something
19 that you're going to take back from us? That's not
20 -- that's not helping nobody. And the reactor?
21 The people in Crane Creek had just -- I think a
22 couple of years ago -- had just turned down the
23 option of having a reactor over there. And they
24 said they have researched it and over a couple of
25 years it's going to drain into your water, you

1 know, an accident is going to happen.

2 **VOICE:** That's right. Yeah.

3 **WITNESS:** Okay. You remember what happened to
4 the oil well? So, you know, when it comes to
5 certain things like that, South Carolina not ready
6 for that. You know, so we really need to not have
7 that reactor.

8 And, let's see. And we do need a choice.
9 Lexington County, they have choices. SCE&G is the
10 only choice that I have made ever since, wow, ever
11 since I've become -- ever since I became grown and
12 on my own. So, we do need a choice. And we are
13 the people; if we say no, then we need to hit you
14 in the pocketbook where it hurts.

15 **VOICE:** That's right.

16 **WITNESS:** You know, so, let's just pull
17 together and be one, and love everybody. Thank
18 you.

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Mr. Burgess?

20 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

22 **MR. NELSON:** No questions. Thank you, Madam
23 Chairman.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

25 [No response]

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you.

2 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

3 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Wiley Cooper.

4 Wiley Cooper, please?

5 [Witness affirmed]

6 THEREUPON came,

7 **W I L E Y C O O P E R ,**

8 who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

9 **WITNESS:** My name is Wiley Cooper. I'm a
10 United Methodist pastor, retired. 5314 Colonial
11 Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29203.

12 I'm trying to get some things around my head,
13 and it just doesn't seem to work. The power
14 company with the highest rates in the State,
15 between 25 and 30 percent higher than even the
16 other major investor-owned power company; the power
17 company that refuses to be assertive in giving
18 incentives for energy conservation that are
19 realistic -- try to get Rate 6. I dare you. Try
20 to get Rate 6 -- the power company that, when a
21 church pays the bill of a needy person, still
22 charges the penalty to the church, when they
23 would've gotten nothing otherwise; the power
24 company that has built itself a mansion that makes
25 Village at Sandhills look pretty shabby; that power

1 company tells you, "We can't make it without a
2 raise." And before this hearing began, we heard,
3 quote, "The major people, the principals, have
4 already come to an agreement." I hope that the
5 Public Service Commission has not already made your
6 decision in relation to that agreement.

7 It's telling to me that the questions have
8 been none for SCE&G, none from the representatives
9 of the public, and maybe three from Commissioners.
10 When people are interested in knowing, they ask
11 questions. These folks have sat and heard people
12 impugn their integrity, challenge their numbers,
13 raise heartrending personal instances, without one
14 question. That doesn't parse. Please, think.
15 This rate increase needs to be rejected. Thank
16 you, very much.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Cooper, if you would
18 just wait and see if there any questions of you.

19 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

20 **MR. NELSON:** I can't think of anything to ask,
21 Reverend Cooper. Thank you, sir.

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Reverend Cooper, I'm sorry.
23 Commissioners?

24 [No response]

25 <

EXAMINATION**BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:**

Q I wanted to -- if you would -- I wanted to ask you to elaborate on the energy conservation that you said was very difficult to --

A Compare the initiatives of the publicly owned power companies and what they provide in incentives and helps for people to make their homes more energy efficient, the fact that the publicly owned power companies went to the Legislature and had just gotten a bill through that says if I need to insulate my house, they'll take care of that and we'll pay off the loan this way: a third of it goes to me paying off the -- for doing it, and two-thirds of the savings goes to the power company until it's paid off. SCE&G hasn't even asked.

Look at Rate 6. I have reduced -- I have spent close to \$20,000 reducing my rate -- my power usage, and I still can't make 6 because the CEER rating on my air conditioning is not high enough, despite the fact that on a 2,800-square-foot house I'm spending no more this year, including the bad months, of \$300 a month. I can't meet Rate 6. Rate 6 is a sham.

Look at the difference between Duke Power and what it provides and what it works for, the testimony of the head of Duke Power, state and federal, and SCE&G. It

1 will either make you laugh or cry. I hope it will make
2 you cry.

3 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. You may step down.

4 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

5 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

6 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Jan Gilligan.
7 Jan Gilligan, please?

8 [Witness affirmed]

9 THEREUPON came,

10 **J A N G I L L I G A N ,**
11 who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

12 **WITNESS:** Well, I must say, this is my second
13 time here. First time I found out it was a
14 different process. And I guess this is -- I guess
15 you can hear me. Can you hear me?

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Uh-huh.

17 **WITNESS:** It's been a learning process for
18 sure, listening to a lot of other people here. I
19 was saying that we probably need a larger facility
20 here and invite more people to hear more voices,
21 and I think the transparency is very important
22 here.

23 About these Commissioners, I'm hearing things
24 about these Commissioners. I'm hearing things
25 about our SCE&G. I was raised in these parts, as

1 the saying goes, and I never knew SCE&G had this
2 many enemies. I'm learning, though. SC, look out.
3 This might be for good reason. It sounds like our
4 Legislature is the one that is doing us a dirty
5 deed, because if -- like I'm talking to these
6 gentlemen, and we haven't got a monopoly here, but
7 yet you've got an awful lot of people here tonight
8 that's saying this is a monopoly, okay? So -- and
9 it's okay, because the Legislature of South
10 Carolina said it's okay. Well, if we're having
11 this much difficulty with people not wanting these
12 nuclear plants, okay -- if I counted correctly,
13 there are five. Now most people in this country
14 know South Carolina is not the biggest state in
15 this nation, so, you know, five nuclear plants is a
16 little too many. That's what I'm counting. And
17 when you look at these rates and the reason for the
18 rates, and you say hey, you know, we've got other
19 avenues, you know, here, of biomass, wind -- we
20 have wonderful wind down there on our beaches,
21 thank God. And what's the other one? We've got
22 biomass, we've got -- gosh, there's another one.

23 **VOICE:** Solar.

24 **WITNESS:** Solar, there you go. Solar. All
25 right, so there's other areas, and SCE&G can get

1 their digs into this. But, especially to save us
2 money. We need to save. You've heard the stories
3 of these people, and we need to save money.

4 Now, not to run out of time here. I was here
5 the last time about senior discount rates. Now,
6 let me tell you, the answers I got on this was a
7 little absurd: that it's discrimination if
8 seniors, and we're talking about elderly, or 65 and
9 up. It's not quite elderly, but most people are on
10 limited income at 65 and up. And most of us don't
11 have a full-time job -- and you won't either,
12 probably, even if times change. But, that being
13 the case, you've got to factor this in, SCE&G, that
14 these people -- it's not discrimination, for
15 heaven's sake. You've got theaters that give you
16 discounts, you've got grocery stores that give you
17 discounts, you have -- what else? I mean, give me
18 a break. There's a lot of discounts, you know, for
19 senior citizens, and they're deserved. We worked
20 for years to get those discounts.

21 And so think about it. And I was here the
22 wrong time last time. This time it's about rates.
23 I'm here the right time this time, and I'll leave
24 you with a comedy here -- and it won't put you in
25 tears, but it's very true. We all know about

1 Dagwood, and he's talking to his power company and
2 he says, "My power bill is outrageous, and I refuse
3 to pay it." So, the person on the phone says, "You
4 refuse to pay it?" "Yes, I do." That's Dagwood.
5 Everything goes dark, completely black.

6 [Laughter]

7 There's no lights, there's no appliances,
8 there's no nothing. What does Dagwood say? "Okay,
9 I'll bring it in this afternoon."

10 So, think about the people that's on limited
11 income. Think about the people that's losing their
12 jobs. Think -- we've heard it over and over again,
13 we've got to do something. And if you've got to go
14 to the Legislature to get it done, go to the
15 Legislature. Thank you.

16 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

18 **MR. NELSON:** No questions. Thank you.

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

20 **WITNESS:** Oh, I've got one second. I forgot
21 to say, these people that are asking questions --
22 I'm making a request to the Commission that each
23 one of those questions be answered. You've got
24 their addresses. You've got their names. I didn't
25 ask a question except about the rate, and I did

1 not, the last time I was here, get an answer
2 either. I had to call all kind of people to get my
3 answers, and I got "discrimination." Wow. But
4 anyway, every one of these people that came here
5 tonight deserve a response, and you should send it
6 to them in writing, whatever they questioned when
7 they came here tonight. Thank you.

8 [Applause]

9 **EXAMINATION**

10 **BY COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:**

11 **Q** Ms. Gilligan. Ms. Gilligan? I don't know that we got
12 your address.

13 **A** Oh. It's 302 Willow Winds -- that's two words -- Willow
14 Winds Drive, Columbia 29210.

15 **COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:** Thank you.

16 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

17 **MR. BUTLER:** I'd like to call Erick -- and I
18 guess this is Sliest, or Sleist. S-l-i-e-s-t.
19 Would you come forward, please?

20 [Witness sworn]

21 THEREUPON came,

22 **E R I C K S K I E S T ,**
23 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

24 **WITNESS:** My name is Erick Skiest. I live at
25 23 Northgrove Court, Columbia, South Carolina

1 29212.

2 And I really wasn't expecting to speak
3 tonight, but I am a single parent and my rates keep
4 going up and up, and it's hard. I'm actually in
5 the solar industry, and I should be all for a rate
6 increase because that would just help our industry.
7 The higher the rates go, the more people want to
8 use alternative energy and clean energy. But,
9 being in the solar industry, I see the people -- so
10 many people that are in straits, they don't have
11 the money to pay their bills. The older people,
12 the people retired realizing there's two major
13 bills that they can't control: that's their
14 medical bills and their utility bills. And then
15 there's the young people, I see young couples out
16 there, young people buy houses or in their
17 apartments, and they can't afford to pay their
18 bills now, and we're just talking about increased
19 rates, increased rates, increased rates.

20 I don't hear much about renewable energy --
21 enough. I moved down from Massachusetts five years
22 ago for the abundant sunshine, the warmth of South
23 Carolina, and it surprises me South Carolina has so
24 little to do with any type of renewable energy.
25 It's starting to come on now, but -- instead of

1 SCE&G building their new behemoth buildings and
2 their lavish benefits they have for all their
3 employees and wanting to spend millions and
4 millions on the buildings and billions and billions
5 on reactors, they could be spending or investing in
6 the future of solar power, wind power, and they
7 wouldn't need as big of an investment upfront.
8 They could pay for it as they go and add on as they
9 go.

10 So, I'm dead set against the rate increases,
11 even though it could help me personally, for the
12 good of everybody. I mean, in this economy,
13 there's no quick answer, there's no quick solution.
14 It's not going to be turned around tomorrow, next
15 month, or probably not even next year. So, I'm
16 dead set against the rate increase. Thank you.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Mr. Burgess?

18 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

19 **MR. NELSON:** No questions. Thank you, sir.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

21 [No response]

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you.

23 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

24 **MR. BUTLER:** Eric B. Hopkins. Eric B.
25 Hopkins, please?

1 MS. HOPKINS: Ernette.

2 MR. BUTLER: Oh, Ernette. Okay, sorry about
3 that.

4 [Witness sworn]

5 THEREUPON came,

6 E R N E T T E B . H O P K I N S ,
7 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

8 WITNESS: Good evening. My name is Ernette
9 Hopkins, and I live at 195 Brook Pines Drive,
10 Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

11 Most of everything I wanted to say has been
12 said. But, first I just want to make a comment. I
13 am so proud of everyone that has come out this
14 evening and how they articulated everything that
15 they had to say and how they did their homework and
16 how they weren't afraid to come out. Now, what
17 disappoints me is this format. People are here for
18 answers. They're here for -- yes, answers. And
19 they're not given the opportunity to get these
20 answers. This system blows me away. I've been in
21 nonprofit organizing for 15 years. I've never been
22 to a forum like this where people come out with
23 legitimate concerns, and they get no answers.

24 Can I ask everyone who is with SCE&G to stand
25 up? There's more of you in here now than there are

1 of us here. Someone should be able to stand up and
2 give some answers, for goodness' sake. It makes no
3 sense. It -- I just don't understand it.

4 But, the main reason I came here is for the
5 same reason everyone else is here for. I live in a
6 one-bedroom apartment. The utility bills generally
7 run about -- the electric bill generally runs about
8 \$50-some-odd a month. Somewhere in 2009, the --
9 no, no. This past winter, I'm sorry -- yeah, 2009,
10 the bills jumped up to almost \$160. I was gone for
11 a week, a complete week. I unplugged everything.
12 Everything but the refrigerator. I mean, the TV,
13 the microwave, my electric toothbrush, everything.
14 The bill did not change one penny. It makes no
15 sense.

16 I can't understand how you justify this.
17 Also, I wanted to ask -- because I'm from
18 Cleveland, Ohio, in case you couldn't -- well, you
19 probably could pick up the accent, but -- back when
20 Bush first got into office -- and I'm not saying
21 he's the reason; it could be just coincidence.
22 When he first got into -- shortly after he first
23 got into office, my gas bill used to be like \$89 in
24 the winter. All of a sudden that doubled. And
25 when we had a community meeting -- where they did

1 answer questions, by the way -- they told us that
2 it was a transportation fee. I want to know, is
3 that what you're charging us and you're just not
4 saying it? Because another thing, your bill is not
5 itemized. How do you have a bill and it's not
6 itemized? That's -- there's just so many things I
7 don't understand.

8 But, the last thing I just want to say is, if
9 we all organize ourselves, we can get them to give
10 us answers. This is crazy. Look at the people who
11 are in here, look at the questions that you've
12 asked, look at the homework that you've done. We
13 need to organize ourselves and get our -- you don't
14 see any politicians in here, so you know they're
15 not going to get the answers for us. We have to
16 get the answers for ourselves.

17 That's all I have to say. Any questions? No.

18 [Applause; laughter]

19 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

20 **MR. NELSON:** Do you have copies of those bills
21 for like --

22 **WITNESS:** I can get them. I don't have them
23 now. I just have one -- I have the current bill,
24 which I'm not behind, you know, by the grace of
25 God. But, I'm one of the few fortunate, I guess.

1 **MR. NELSON:** Would you do me a favor and see
2 Brad Kirby who is with our Consumer Services
3 Office, in the back of the room, and let us take a
4 look at your bills for you, please?

5 **WITNESS:** Yes, I will.

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Would you like to enter
7 that into the evidence of the case?

8 **WITNESS:** It's just scribble-scrabble.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** No, the bill --

10 **WITNESS:** My bill?

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** -- that they were asking
12 about.

13 **WITNESS:** I don't have them on me. I'd have
14 to -- like I told him, they're at home. I have my
15 current bill, but it's current.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Well, I mean, if you wanted
17 to, you could send them to Ms. Wheat and --

18 **WITNESS:** Okay. Give me her contact
19 information.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** -- that would be entered
21 into the evidence of the case as Hearing Exhibit
22 No. 21. I take it that the Commissioners have no
23 questions.

24 [No response]

25 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

1 **MR. BUTLER:** I'll call Patrick, and I'll just
2 have to spell this last name; N-h-i-g-u-l-a.
3 Anybody here by that name?

4 [No response]

5 **MR. BUTLER:** Okay. In that case, how about
6 Percy Courts? Percy Courts?

7 [Witness affirmed]

8 THEREUPON came,

9 **P E R C Y C O U R T S ,**

10 who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

11 **WITNESS:** My name is Percy Courts. I live at
12 111 Millhouse Court, Columbia, South Carolina.

13 I'd like to say I am totally against giving an
14 increase to SCE&G. We are in the midst of a
15 recession. People do not have the money now. We
16 have high unemployment. People are unable to pay
17 their bills. During this past winter we had bills
18 in the amount of \$400, \$500. Some people had to
19 take out loans to pay for those bills. If SCE&G
20 wants to build or if they want to build a nuclear
21 plant, take out a loan.

22 [Laughter]

23 Pay for it yourself. What do you do with the
24 money that you get from your ratepayers? I'm
25 serious, what do you do with the money? Do you

1 reinvest it into the company? You say that you
2 need to upgrade your equipment. Isn't that part of
3 reinvesting into your company?

4 In 1994, my family and I went on vacation. We
5 were gone for about 13 days. On return, we
6 received our electric bill and it was as if we had
7 been there 30 days at the house, paying for the
8 neighborhood. There was no decrease in the amount
9 of the bill. I asked my neighbor what his bill
10 was. It was about the same as the bill that I got.
11 I went to SCE&G to complain. I told them what we
12 had done; unplugging appliances, just leaving on
13 the necessities that had to be on. Like you can't
14 unplug an air conditioner. But, they asked me if I
15 turned off the circuit breaker. This is totally
16 ridiculous. You're telling me that if I'm not
17 using my appliances that if I don't turn off the
18 circuit breaker, I'm still using the same amount of
19 energy? That was their answer, "Did you turn off
20 your circuit breaker?" I said, no, and there was
21 no recourse for me, there was no reduction in the
22 bill, no nothing. That's all I have. This was
23 1994, so I do not have a copy of that bill.

24 [Laughter]

25 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

1 **MR. NELSON:** It's 16 years ago, so we probably
2 can't look at that bill. But on your way out if
3 you would see someone from our Consumer Services
4 Office just to get some information from us, so if
5 you have a problem like that in the future with
6 your bill, you can call our Consumer Services and
7 talk to somebody.

8 **WITNESS:** All right.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

10 **COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:** I have a question.

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes.

12 **EXAMINATION**

13 **BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:**

14 **Q** Yes, sir. You mentioned that you had \$300 and \$400
15 bills. Was that abnormal from what your normal billing
16 -- I believe you stated that you had \$300 or \$400
17 recently. Would that be out of normal from your other
18 bills or was that about normal?

19 **A** Those were abnormal bills for December and January, yes.

20 **Q** What had your bill been averaging?

21 **A** Those months would be about like between \$250 and
22 sometimes maybe \$300.

23 **Q** Could you get those bills together for us? Would you
24 have a copy of those at home and maybe you could get
25 them to Ms. Wheat, if you would like for someone to look

1 into it?

2 **A** Okay, sure.

3 **COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:** Thank you.

4 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes, just a minute please.
5 Commissioner Whitfield?

6 **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** Commissioner Mitchell
7 asked the same question I was going to ask.

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Oh, okay. All right. You
9 may step down. That will be entered into the
10 evidence of the case as Hearing Exhibit No. 22.

11 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

12 **MR. BUTLER:** I'll call Barbara Locklear.
13 Barbara Locklear, please?

14 [Witness sworn]

15 THEREUPON came,

16 **B A R B A R A L O C K L E A R,**

17 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

18 **WITNESS:** Hello. My name is Barbara Locklear.
19 I live at 617 Lyndale Drive in West Columbia, and
20 the ZIP is 29170.

21 All right. First of all, I want to thank you
22 for letting us have this forum and this chance to
23 disagree with the increase that SCE&G has proposed.
24 My problem is that I am against any increase that
25 is given to SCE&G. I have been late with my bill,

1 but I've been able to catch it up. In the December
2 months and the January months, we've had a cold
3 winter and my bill was running \$200 a month.

4 I am one person living in my house. I had --
5 in the summer, I have my house at 78 degrees; in
6 the winter, I have it at 64 degrees. I do maybe
7 three loads of laundry a week, because I'm by
8 myself. And I don't cook much. I like to eat out,
9 because at the end of the day, teaching school, I
10 am tired. I will not get a raise this year for my
11 next school year, but thank goodness I still have a
12 job.

13 But, my complaint is that SCE&G thinks that
14 their bill is the only bill that I have to pay, and
15 it's way too expensive for me. This past summer I
16 was paying \$56. When it got a little bit hotter,
17 it was in the \$80s. And in the fall, it was still
18 in the \$80s. The three months of the winter that
19 it was so cold, it was \$200, running right just
20 below \$200 a month, and that was for December,
21 January, and February. And for some reason with
22 the accounting that SCE&G uses, this bill that I
23 got this month for April was \$73, and I have not
24 seen a \$73 bill since the summer of the year or the
25 spring of the year. And I thought that was

1 strange, why from \$193 it falls down to \$73. I
2 don't know if they've already given us some money
3 back from the money that they took from us in those
4 rebates that were mentioned on the PowerPoint, but
5 it was a strange thing to me, that now that I have
6 my nephew living with me -- because he can't afford
7 to have a place of his own, because he works a job
8 that is minimum wage -- it was \$73, when I thought
9 it should have been a lot more since there are two
10 of us at the house now. So, I didn't understand
11 the accounting that was done with the bill that we
12 had. I think they did some refiguring by kilowatt-
13 hour or whatever it was. I didn't understand that
14 because I don't know anything about energy.

15 I did my homework, and this past weekend I
16 listened to one of the engineers from SCE&G, and he
17 was explaining that the cost for coal that South
18 Carolina has to import to run its facilities to
19 generate energy is a billion dollars, \$1 billion.
20 And I think with that \$1 billion that they could do
21 a much better job and invest in much more efficient
22 and cleaner and environmentally friendly energy
23 sources, because the \$1 billion -- and burning
24 coal, that is 19th century.

25 [Laughter]

1 And our school -- it's 19th century, yes. We
2 need to invest in -- we have beautiful blue skies
3 all year long. We should invest in solar energy.
4 That's much more efficient, much more
5 environmentally friendly. I don't know why we
6 don't do it. They said -- the professor -- the
7 engineer said, "Oh, it's too much investment. It's
8 too much money." Well, I think \$1 billion a year
9 that we have to buy coal with, to get the energy
10 that we need to run our computers, to run our ovens
11 and all that, is way too much. And I want to SCE&G
12 to become energy efficient with reusable sources of
13 energy, and that's what I want from SCE&G.

14 I'm tired of the -- of the power outages.
15 When I come home from work -- and this year has
16 been extreme. I've had four or five times that my
17 -- let's see -- my microwave has said that there
18 was a power failure. And that has never happened
19 with SCE&G. It may be that they have construction
20 going on in my neighborhood in West Columbia, right
21 close to the airport, or something, but so many
22 times this past year I've had power failure, power
23 failure, power failure. The power has come off.

24 And I would like for them to address that and
25 figure out why there's a constant power failure,

1 because in the past years -- and I've been living
2 in my childhood home for 47 years, almost, and it's
3 never been where we've had one year where the power
4 outage has been so often and so recurrent.

5 And so -- but, we need to be 21st-century and
6 that's what the Governor says, and that's what the
7 superintendent of my school district, Lexington 1,
8 says; we are building or making our school's
9 students 21st-century global citizens, and that's
10 what I want from SCE&G. I don't want coal burning
11 in this day and time, in the 21st century. And so
12 I would like them to reconsider that because \$1
13 billion, you can do a lot with \$1 billion. And the
14 engineer said that was way too much money for us to
15 invest, or for SCE&G to invest in renewable sources
16 of energy, wind energy, solar energy, and I think
17 \$1 billion can go a far way to invest in renewable
18 energies.

19 SCE&G needs to stop being corporate greedy and
20 stop asking us for pay raises, and we shouldn't
21 have to pay for a power reactor when it's not even
22 up. That's not our business; that's why they have
23 investors, to put money into their operation, and
24 that's where I think the nuclear plants that they
25 are wanting to be built should be coming from, from

1 the investors. When they get them up then I would
2 be glad to pay for the energy that I get from them.
3 But that's just operation business and it should
4 come from the investors. That's my -- that's all I
5 have to say. Thank you for listening.

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Are there any
7 questions?.

8 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

9 **MR. NELSON:** I don't have any questions, but,
10 Ms. Locklear, if you have copies of those bills --

11 **WITNESS:** I'm not complaining -- I mean, I
12 thought it was extremely high, but when I hear
13 everyone else's bills -- I have a 1,500-square-foot
14 house, and I freeze in the wintertime, but I have
15 my sweats that I wear, so I'm not complaining. It
16 went to \$74, I don't know why. Magically it just
17 dropped to \$74.

18 **CROSS EXAMINATION**

19 **BY MR. NELSON:**

20 **Q** Did you say there was some kind of recalculation?

21 **A** Yes, there was. I read that in it, but I -- you know, I
22 don't know anything about energy, and there was a
23 recalculation, and I think that's why they said some of
24 that came down. And of course, the weather was a lot
25 more pleasant in April, also.

1 **Q** If you do want to ask somebody about those, if you could
2 get those bills at some time, again, if you could check
3 with our Consumer Services people, April Sharpe and Brad
4 Kirby, in the back --

5 **A** Kirby, right.

6 **Q** -- they'll give you some contact information.

7 **A** That's fine. I've been late paying for my bill those
8 three months that it was so cold and it was \$200, but I
9 was having to try to scrounge, figuring out where I'm
10 going to get the money to pay SCE&G, because they are
11 not my only bill that I have to pay. And that's what
12 they need to realize. Everyone in here has many more
13 bills than just SCE&G, and that's what I want them to
14 reconsider, and I don't think they need a raise. I know
15 they're very wonderful in the community. They're very
16 engaged in the community and give a lot to the
17 community, but maybe they can find some other money some
18 other way and keep us from having to pay in these hard
19 times, because I'm not getting a raise this year. Thank
20 you.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

22 [No response]

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may step
24 down.

25 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

1 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

2 MR. BUTLER: Elaine Cooper? Calling Elaine
3 Cooper.

4 [WHEREUPON, Ms. Cooper came forward]

5 MR. BUTLER: Ms. Cooper, did you testify in
6 Aiken?

7 MS. COOPER: Yes I did. Graniteville.

8 MR. BUTLER: Okay. Well, I'm sorry. We can't
9 hear from you again.

10 MS. COOPER: The public cannot speak twice?

11 MR. BUTLER: No, ma'am.

12 MS. COOPER: Really?

13 MR. BUTLER: No, ma'am. I'm sorry. No,
14 ma'am, we heard from you in Aiken.

15 MS. COOPER: Okay. That's interesting. I
16 just want you to know that, okay?

17 MR. BUTLER: Okay. I'm sorry. We'll call
18 Marlana Schooler. Marlana Schooler, please?

19 [No response]

20 MR. BUTLER: Okay. Marc Sanders, please?
21 Marc Sanders?

22 [Witness sworn]

23 THEREUPON came,

24 M A R C S A N D E R S ,

25 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

1 **WITNESS:** My name is Marc Sanders, 1786
2 Charles Avenue, Elgin, South Carolina 29045.

3 And I am going to go ahead and say up front, I
4 am against this rate increase. I don't see the
5 purpose in it. I'm thinking about some of those
6 that are disabled, elderly. And the Bible says,
7 the poor you'll have with you always. I'm also in
8 the ministry. And so, we need to take care of our
9 poor, the disabled, and we can't do this by keep
10 going up on fixed incomes, so I'm against it.

11 I was originally with Fairfield Electric Co-
12 op, loved them. But when I moved, I moved to off
13 of Highway 12, and on one side of the road is
14 Fairfield and on the other side SCE&G. So I ended
15 up getting on the wrong side of the road.

16 [Laughter]

17 And it doesn't make any sense to me because
18 Elgin is Fairfield, and the other side, which is --
19 or Elgin is SCE&G, and SCE&G is on my side, but on
20 the Fort Jackson side is Fairfield. I was thinking
21 maybe I could just pull power from across the
22 street and get it to work, because I love them.
23 You can get money back with them. My dad's been
24 with them for many years.

25 I also experienced, when the new meter come

1 in, about a \$75-a-month rate increase. I also,
2 being self-employed, being in construction --
3 everybody knows construction has been down, so I'm
4 not working. Or even when we go to work, I go take
5 the thermostat, I cut it way down. I know they
6 said they did it. Well, I've tried it the other
7 way by leaving it where the climate would be
8 normal, but that didn't work, so I did go and
9 change it. And when I was home, I would go around
10 in the wintertime with a whole bunch of clothes on,
11 and I have a fireplace in my house, and still
12 didn't see no change. In the summer, we keep it
13 about 76 and run the ceiling fans, and still
14 haven't seen any change.

15 So, I haven't seen the ways I've tried help.
16 I did see on the back of one of my invoices, it
17 says, "If you need help paying your bill, contact
18 SCE&G," and there's a certain number. I called
19 that number, and they gave me a number for another
20 organization that may help me. And so it didn't do
21 what it was supposed to do, and they offer someone
22 else that can help you.

23 And I don't understand either -- I'm being
24 self-employed in drywall work, also in the ministry
25 of a smaller church. If I want to make more money,

1 I do the whole job. And I see out there these
2 tree-service people that are subcontracted out to
3 do the work, but yet I can go watch three people
4 watch one man up there changing a transformer or
5 just putting the breaker back in. The other two,
6 instead of watching him, could be cutting the limbs
7 while the one is making sure the guy is safe, and
8 that could be saving some money for us consumers
9 also. So, I see that.

10 I'm freezing in the wintertime, I'm burning up
11 in the summer, trying to do everything -- but it's
12 my house. My house is my mansion. I shouldn't
13 have to -- have to want to freeze in the wintertime
14 and burn up just to pay a utility. It shouldn't be
15 something that I have to be doing that way. I
16 ought to be comfortable. I come home, I ought to
17 be able to sit in my recliner and enjoy my day off,
18 because I've been out in the sun all day or in the
19 winter all day with the heater on in a job. I
20 shouldn't have to do these things. So I am still
21 very much against this.

22 Back in August of last year, word came out
23 SCE&G was having a rate increase. I called the
24 Public Commission. I talked to them; they told me
25 what I needed. I sent in a reply that I want to

1 protest it, and the Public Commission sent me back
2 -- I don't have it with me, but I've got the letter
3 from their lawyer saying I am premature in my
4 wanting to go against the rate increase. Well, in
5 November, y'all got a rate increase. And then a
6 week later it said, SCE&G -- Public Commission has
7 approved a rate increase for all gas customers. Go
8 look, it's been on the WIS website. They've now
9 taken it down because it's been a few months. But
10 I was premature, but yet the rate increase
11 happened, and now we're soon to be getting another
12 one.

13 Well, you know, Jesus talked in parables.
14 Since I can't ask a question, so I might talk in a
15 parable. Being self-employed, that if I want to
16 make more money, and when construction was going
17 good, I would have to hire another crew, I would
18 have to buy the tools and go do the work. Now, if
19 I went up to my building contractor and said, "Here
20 is my bill for my new benches, my new tools, my new
21 everything," he would laugh me to death, but that's
22 what was happening to us. They are supposed to
23 maintain their own equipment, their own
24 instruments, keep them up, but yet they're saying,
25 "Hey, we had a rate increase. Can you pay for that

1 bill?" Or, "We've got to do some other stuff,
2 we've got to increase it." And that's what they're
3 doing.

4 One more thing. Being in construction, I see
5 the new work that has went on. That's your new
6 income. The new consumers moving in, that's where
7 -- and when the economy is going good, guess what I
8 learned to do? It's called a savings. I put my
9 money up, I kept it, and I made it through these
10 rainy days. It's called a savings. They should
11 have took that money and invested it. Just so if
12 you don't know, and I just found out today, I had
13 them down as having 642,000 electric customers,
14 309,000 -- 307,00 gas customers. Y'all, let's just
15 say your bill is only a \$100 month. That is --
16 there are 6,500 now; that is \$65 million a month
17 just off the electric customers. Where is that
18 money going? Where is that money going?

19 We shouldn't have to do that. We shouldn't
20 have to pay for these things. They should be taken
21 care of. But right here on this piece of paper
22 I've got, SCANA Corporation, a Fortune 500 Company.
23 Proud of that.

24 [Laughter]

25 It shouldn't be that way. I've checked into

1 wind power, I've checked into creek power -- I've
2 got a creek behind my house. I've checked into
3 solar power; solar power is \$60,000. I don't hate
4 SCE&G, the people, but I hate the company. I hate
5 the company. They have disappointed me. I want to
6 be with Fairfield Electric so bad, but I've got a
7 nice piece of property I like, and I guess I'm just
8 going to have to put up with them, but I'm not
9 going to put up with the bill. When I get \$60,000,
10 y'all are paying me to use my electricity.

11 [Laughter]

12 That's what they're going to do. When I get
13 it, that's what I'm going to do.

14 But, I want to say this to our Public
15 Commission. Y'all said I was premature. Well, if
16 y'all allow this to go through, then I'm going to
17 say with everything you've heard, y'all have
18 already made up your mind before you ever came in
19 this room.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Burgess?

21 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

22 **MR. NELSON:** I don't have any questions.

23 Thank you, sir.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners? Yes,
25 Commissioner Whitfield.

EXAMINATION**BY COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:**

Q Mr. Sanders, could you share with us what your bill, monthly bill, is or was?

A Well, before the new meter come in, it would roughly be about \$200 to \$250. Since then, it's anywhere from \$350, and when in the cold months when I was running the fireplace, not working, cut the heat off, it was \$495 for two months. I was in shock. And that's when I called for help, and the number they gave me put me through to some other company to help. They just passed the buck on to someone else. And we don't need to pass the buck today on to someone else.

[Applause]

COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD: I don't have anything further, Madam. You may want to enter those into the record or something, but I don't have anything further, Madam Chairman.

WITNESS: All I've got is what's in my mind, what the Lord gave me.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: So, you don't want to enter them?

WITNESS: Whatever you -- I'll come up with it, write it down if y'all got to record it, whatever you need. I've got my bills. Whatever

1 you want, I'll bring it.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Well, you can bring the
3 bills to Ms. Wheat, and we can enter them into the
4 evidence of the case as Hearing Exhibit No. 23.

5 **WITNESS:** And y'all have in your documents
6 where I did send in to protest the last one, so
7 y'all already have it on record that y'all declined
8 me, saying I was premature.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And did you send it -- do
10 you know the address to where you sent that letter?

11 **WITNESS:** Oh, yes, ma'am, because I talked to
12 one of the ladies up here, and I got it all wrote
13 down at the house and sent it up here, and then
14 your all's lawyer sent it back saying it wasn't
15 happening, and then in November we all got a rate
16 increase.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** I'm just wondering if it
18 was sent -- if you have that letter, I'd like it.

19 **WITNESS:** I've got it filed away. Matter of
20 fact, I can produce my electric bills from 1994.

21 [Laughter]

22 **WITNESS:** I'm self-employed. I've got to keep
23 all my records. I can show the rate increase for
24 years.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. If you could

1 just -- we'll add that letter with your bills. If
2 you could get in touch with Ms. Wheat to give us a
3 copy of that?

4 **WITNESS:** Yes, ma'am.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And the envelope, if you
6 have it.

7 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

8 **MR. BUTLER:** Okay, we call Juanita Smith,
9 please. Juanita Smith? All right. Is she here?
10 Yeah, here she comes.

11 [Witness sworn]

12 THEREUPON came,

13 **J U A N I T A S M I T H ,**

14 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

15 **WITNESS:** I was trying to go home. I was
16 trying to leave.

17 [Laughter]

18 Well, I don't really have a whole lot to say,
19 and I'm not much of a speaker. But, I just have
20 four acronyms that I just want to say. And it's
21 DDCD, if you want to write that down. It's DDCD,
22 and that means: the first D, we Don't need it.
23 The second D, we Don't want it. C, we Can't afford
24 it. We just can't afford it. The last D, Don't do
25 it. Don't do it. And that's all I have to say.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Ms. Smith, if
2 you'll wait just a minute.

3 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

4 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

5 **CROSS EXAMINATION**

6 **BY MR. NELSON:**

7 **Q** Ms. Smith, could you tell us your address, please?

8 **A** 330 Gaston Fort Drive, Gaston.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

10 [No response]

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you.

12 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

13 **MR. BUTLER:** I'll call Najee Karim, please.

14 K-a-r-i-m.

15 [Witness affirmed]

16 THEREUPON came,

17 **N A J E E K A R I M ,**

18 who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

19 **WITNESS:** My name is Najee Karim. I live at
20 1320 Winter Wood Road, Columbia, South Carolina
21 29203.

22 First of all I'm going to say, I don't think
23 they need the rate hike, and the reason being --
24 I'm telling you this because last year my utility
25 -- I don't usually question the utilities, but last

1 year it got outrageous. So, when the month of
2 December came, I decided I'm going to go out and
3 write down the days, the months, the days and check
4 how much the meter jump up.

5 So, I goes outside with my pencil and paper
6 and say, "Well, I'm going to get Jessie James this
7 time." So, I goes out, write down the number, the
8 meter don't change. 444. I sat there for a whole
9 hour; 444. So, I got tired, went back in the
10 house, come back out again. 444. So there's no
11 way you could check to see what's going on. So I
12 was real puzzled. My electricity jumped from like
13 \$200 to \$500 in one month. I said, "Golly," and I
14 was cutting off the hot water heater, turning off
15 all my utilities I needed, the heating and air,
16 turned it off. Still goes up. The next month, I
17 said, "Well, I'm just going to let everything run."
18 I leave the hot water heater on, leave the air and
19 heat on, the light bill starts coming down. I
20 said, "God, I'm better to just let it run." I
21 don't have a cat, I don't have a dog, ain't nobody
22 home but me. I'm the only person in my house, and
23 I'm gone all through the day. I couldn't figure
24 out why it was going up.

25 So, if it's going to go up like that, why get

1 a rate increase if it's going to do that? I've got
2 to admit, Jessie James ain't got nothing on them
3 guys. Shoot, that kind of stuff. They don't need
4 it; they don't need a rate increase. And if we're
5 going to let go on, see, that get back to you guys.
6 If that happens, that's just like putting the fox
7 in the chicken house to watch over the chickens
8 while I'm gone.

9 [Laughter]

10 I mean, you can't do it. That's all I got to
11 say about it.

12 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

13 **CROSS EXAMINATION**

14 **BY MR. NELSON:**

15 **Q** Mr. Karim, do you have -- going back to those bills a
16 little bit. You went from \$200 to \$500, that was like
17 December and January of this past --

18 **A** It actually started -- normally my bill run like \$100-
19 and-something. Right now it came out this month \$159.
20 I was so happy, man.

21 **Q** So, you went through those \$500 bills over the
22 wintertime?

23 **A** \$500 in one month. It jumped in the month of December,
24 it went up to \$500. I was going to write down, you know
25 -- the old meter, you could write the numbers down, how

1 much kilowatts you use in a day. The meters they got
2 now, it just jumps, just blink, blink, blink. You
3 can't --

4 **Q** I'm going to tell you what I've told a couple of other
5 people. If you want us to take a look at your bills,
6 our Consumer Services will be happy to look over those
7 bills for you. And if you can see Brad Kirby at the
8 back of the room, back there, when you get off the
9 stand, we would be happy to talk to you about those.

10 **A** All right.

11 **MR. NELSON:** Thank you.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

13 [No response]

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may step
15 down.

16 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

17 **MR. BUTLER:** I'll call Ebony Woods, please.
18 Ebony Woods?

19 [Witness affirmed]

20 THEREUPON came,

21 **E B O N Y W O O D S ,**

22 who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

23 **WITNESS:** Good evening. My name is Ebony
24 Woods, and I live at 1738 Springfield Avenue,
25 Columbia, South Carolina 29223.

1 As of yesterday, I've been a resident of my
2 home for one year. I find that, in the line of
3 work that I am in, we encourage homeownership, and
4 we talk to people about making sure they balance
5 their budget and things of that nature. But, how
6 can we increase homeownership when people cannot
7 afford to pay their utility bills to even stay in
8 their homes?

9 I'm a full-time employee. I'm a full-time
10 student. I'm faithful in my community in community
11 service, and I attend church. I know last year I
12 had some work done as a medical thing in January, I
13 had no heat on, and I had a bill of \$179. And it's
14 a shame. No heat on, a sweatshirt, and I went and
15 got heaters from Wal-Mart.

16 The coldest night in January, a tree limb fell
17 down and broke the power line that serviced the
18 electricity to my home. I called SCE&G and nobody
19 came until 10 o'clock the next morning. So, I had
20 to drive 30 minutes across town to go stay at my
21 mom's house. And then when a person told me I
22 could call them and ask them to cut the tree down,
23 I called; they told me that it was not a hazard,
24 and they put a little yellow cord over it to keep
25 it from breaking again. Now, you could clearly see

1 the limbs growing up around this tree.

2 I recently attended an energy conference, I
3 won't say where, but a representative from SCE&G
4 got up to give a presentation and all they did was
5 try to sell the whole time. I have natural gas; it
6 is not cheap. Of my \$177 electric bill, only \$30
7 -- only \$30 of it was electricity. The rest was
8 gas. I wash clothes once a month. My mother will
9 tell you that. I have Energy Star appliances. I
10 also run the thermostat at 85, use ceiling fans.
11 And like I said, in the winter I was using heaters.

12 I just find it ridiculous when I get an
13 electric bill that is one-third of my mortgage and
14 I'm being furloughed, have not received a raise in
15 three years, and I'm planning to go to school full-
16 time and I'm working full-time.

17 I know what it's like. I put on public
18 hearings for a living. I've never sat in a forum
19 like this and not have anyone to answer my
20 questions. I know about equity and fairness. I
21 will receive a Master's in Public Administration in
22 December. I know about free-riders, common
23 community problems, and everything else there is,
24 but I also work with issues of discrimination. And
25 it is discriminatory. No offense, but I do not

1 expect any of you all to understand me, because as
2 I sit and watch you all discuss and not listen to
3 what the people are saying, none of you look like
4 me or half the people in this room. And it's sad.

5 And I work hard. I'm 26 years old. And I've
6 just experienced so much, and no one has an answer,
7 no one stood up for SCE&G. But y'all make all this
8 money.

9 [Laughter]

10 And it's like, if -- I'm serious -- I went
11 into the wrong line of work.

12 You know, I hear about geothermal heating and
13 energy. No one had any questions for the gentleman
14 that is in actual renewable energy. That just
15 amazes me. And I just think that -- I understand
16 the forum and I understand what's going on, but
17 please believe as I speak to you all today, I know
18 how the system works, any kind of system. And I
19 will do what I have to do -- if it's wait outside
20 to get phone numbers from every person that is here
21 -- to make a change in this system. And y'all
22 better believe that. I'm 26 years old, and I'm
23 about to head up my Word Club. I have connections,
24 and I'm willing to make those phone calls.

25 How many of you all have stock in SCE&G?

1 Because I can't afford it. I had a professor to
2 tell me that's the best stock to get because that's
3 how you get your payback off your electric bills.
4 I don't get to go out often. Don't let the glasses
5 fool you, don't let the jewelry fool you; I don't
6 even shop. And it is a shame when I hear people
7 having been in their homes -- I have a grandmother
8 on fixed income. My mother and grandmother gets
9 \$500 electric bills. I live alone. I should not
10 have \$177 electric bill when I'm gone from 7
11 o'clock in the morning to 10 o'clock at night,
12 three or four times a week.

13 So, I feel that you all owe us answers, and I
14 am going to push, and I promise y'all, I will push
15 and push and push, as a former page that used to
16 work at the Statehouse, until we get these answers.
17 Thank you for your time.

18 [Applause]

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Ms. Woods, if
20 you -- if you could just wait to see if there are
21 any questions.

22 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

24 **MR. NELSON:** I don't have any questions.
25 Thank you, ma'am.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

2 [No response]

3 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you.

4 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

5 **MR. BUTLER:** I'll call Wade Fulmer. Wade
6 Fulmer, please?

7 **VOICE:** I think he had to go.

8 **MR. BUTLER:** Okay. Stephen Seshun. S-e-s-h-
9 u-n. Steve Seshun?

10 [No response]

11 **MR. BUTLER:** No? Okay. How about Leslie
12 Minard?

13 [Witness sworn]

14 THEREUPON came,

15 **L E S L I E M I N A R D ,**

16 who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

17 **WITNESS:** Hello, everybody. I just scratched
18 down a few notes on my shopping list. And I've
19 been in the ICU for two weeks with a relative, so I
20 didn't eat dinner. I just ate some crackers, so my
21 blood sugar dropped, but I'll try to remain sane up
22 here. I didn't wear my barrel, so -- anyway, let's
23 see, my notes here.

24 The first word I have down is "oligarchy," and
25 that's what, you know, this country is and this

1 State is. The nation is run by Wall Street and
2 South Carolina's kind of run by the utilities. And
3 they sort of get what they want.

4 And my second thing that I have written is
5 "consumer advocacy." There was a sort of consumer
6 advocate group at one time that kind of monitored
7 SCE&G, but they were working a little too well.
8 I'm paraphrasing this history here. And so I'm
9 supposing that at SCE&G's request, they were gotten
10 rid of and replaced with the Office of Regulatory
11 Staff, which -- I don't know, you guys are kind of
12 lap-doggish. You could do a little more advocating
13 for us, and that would be great if you could step
14 up to the bat some. And the Public Service
15 Commission -- I mean, yeah, I heard somebody say
16 they were in the wrong line of work. You know, I
17 -- well, I don't know if I -- well, I would never
18 get hired for your all's job. But yeah, I'd like
19 to see a little different -- I'd like to see it
20 where the Legislature does not appoint the Public
21 Service Commission and where you guys probably make
22 a little less money.

23 But anyway, it was Mr. Karim who was talking
24 about fox in the chicken house. Well, you guys,
25 SCE&G are the foxes, and the chickens are our

1 legislators. And what everybody needs to do is go
2 home, whoever is left here, and tell your friends
3 -- you need to figure out who your legislator is;
4 you can figure that out online -- you need to call
5 them and ask them why in tarnations -- that's a
6 Southern word -- did they vote to approve for the
7 Base Load Review Act, which I'm sure you've already
8 heard about tonight, which basically gives -- oh,
9 which was written by SCE&G lawyers, and gives SCE&G
10 the right to fleece us. And every legislator needs
11 to be asked that point-blank. And if they voted in
12 such a way, they need to go the way of these other
13 incumbents who are on their way out. And you guys
14 need to really work for that, because the
15 legislators are not working for us. The chickens
16 are working for the foxes. So, that's your all's
17 homework.

18 And, I guess you can tell I'm against the rate
19 hike, for these nuclear power plants that we do not
20 need here in South Carolina. It's too hard on us.
21 There could be so much of this money going into
22 conservation. I'm hearing the people's bills -- my
23 bill actually isn't that high because I did take
24 some money and insulated my house, insulated the
25 heck out of it, and it made a big difference. A

1 lot of people can't afford that. Instead of
2 spending billions and billions on your reactors
3 that we don't need, that money should be spent on
4 the people in fixing their houses up. Okay.

5 And does anybody want to ask me a question?

6 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chair.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

8 **MR. NELSON:** No questions. Thank you.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

10 Commissioner Wright.

11 **EXAMINATION**

12 **BY COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:**

13 **Q** Can you give us your address?

14 **A** Pardon me?

15 **Q** Can you give us your address?

16 **A** Oh, sure. It's 2716 Blossom Street, Columbia.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Any other questions?

18 [No response]

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you.

20 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

21 **MR. BUTLER:** Madam Chairman, that does
22 complete the list of witnesses that I have at this
23 time.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Do you want to
25 see if there's anyone else that wants to speak?

1 **MR. BUTLER:** Sure. Is there anyone else in
2 the audience that wishes to be heard on this issue?
3 Yes, sir. Come forward, please.

4 **MR. PRICE:** I just had --

5 **MR. BUTLER:** Oh, you spoke?

6 **MR. PRICE:** I spoke a little earlier. May I
7 submit this as the evidence, please?

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes, you may.

9 **MR. BUTLER:** Yes, sir.

10 **MR. PRICE:** Joel Price.

11 **MR. BUTLER:** Mr. Price?

12 **MR. PRICE:** Yes.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** That would be entered -- is
14 this what you -- the comments you made?

15 **MR. PRICE:** Yes, ma'am.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. That'll be
17 entered into the evidence of the case as Hearing
18 Exhibit No. 24.

19 [WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit No. 24 was
20 marked and received in evidence.]

21 **MR. BUTLER:** All right. Anyone else?

22 **MR. NELSON:** What is that exhibit?

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** It's his comments that he
24 made. I think it's about some of the accounting
25 issues. That's correct, right?

1 **MR. PRICE:** That's correct.

2 **MR. BUTLER:** All right, Madam Chairman,
3 hearing no response, I'll turn it back over to you.

4 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Well, we
5 appreciate everyone coming out tonight, and we
6 certainly do take into consideration everything
7 that people have to say. And at this time, we
8 would invite you to come to the hearing if you're
9 able, tomorrow, and I think you might get some
10 answers to some of your questions if you are here
11 for that. Anyway, this hearing --

12 **VOICE:** What time?

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** It starts at 11 tomorrow.
14 This hearing is now adjourned.

15 [WHEREUPON, at 9:10 p.m., the hearing in
16 the above-entitled matter was adjourned,
17 to reconvene at 11:00 a.m. on May 25,
18 2010.]

19 _____
20 [WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit Nos. 18 and
21 19 were marked and received in evidence.]

22 [WHEREUPON, Late-filed Hearing Exhibit
23 Nos. 21, 22, and 23 shall be marked and
24 received in evidence, upon receipt]


25 _____

C E R T I F I C A T E

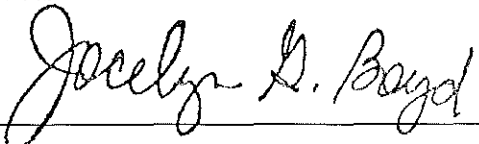
I, Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC, Notary Public in and for the State of South Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing is, to the best of my skill and ability, a true and correct transcript of all the proceedings had and testimony adduced in an evening public hearing held in the above-captioned matter before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina;

That the witnesses appearing during said hearing were sworn or affirmed by me to state the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, on this the 19th day of June, 2010.


Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC

ATTEST:


Jocelyn G. Boyd

INTERIM CHIEF CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR